

Morocco sends conference invitations

RABAT (Agencies) — King Hassan of Morocco has sent envoys around the world to invite heads of state to a Middle East and North Africa economic summit in Casablanca at the end of October, the government daily *Le Matin* said on Wednesday. It said nine ambassadors were touring Arab, African, Asian, European and American capitals and several international institutions with invitations from the king. The conference due to be held in Casablanca's royal palace will be organised from Oct. 30 to Nov. 1, jointly by the World Economic Forum (WEF) based in Geneva and the U.S. Council on Foreign Relations. It is to be attended by representatives of governments and international business interests to promote economic development in the Middle East as part of the peace process. U.S. President Bill Clinton and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will be honorary co-chairs of the summit presided over by King Hassan. WEF said it was expected that the summit would be attended notably by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, along with numerous top executives from multinationals.

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Crown Prince visits Turkish mosques

ISTANBUL (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Wednesday visited several mosques and religious sites in Istanbul. Prince Hassan and the delegation accompanying him on his current visit to Turkey performed prayers at Sultan Ahmet Mosque. Prince Hassan said in a statement to the Turkish Television that these Islamic sites remain a witness to the greatness of the Islamic civilisation. Prince Hassan said that the year 1994 witnessed a thaw in Arab-Israeli negotiations and voiced hope that this would be followed by more achievements in 1995. The Crown Prince said Jordan hopes that its negotiations with Israel or with Arab countries would contribute to making the Middle East take its deserved status in the world arena. "I think that many countries aspire to become part of a cooperative regional order and I think that Jordan and Turkey are part of that ... no doubt Jordan has contributed and is contributing to the region's stability but the main problem is that of water." He said it was impossible for any two countries to resolve their water disputes bilaterally in isolation of a regional perspective.

King: No Jerusalem visit at anytime soon

Support of Parliament for peace moves does away with thought of referendum at this point in time

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein said Wednesday that much as he, an Arab Muslim Hashemite, would like to visit Jerusalem, the visit would not take place any time soon.

The King, in an interview with Radio Monte Carlo, also said he believed that the support that the two-thirds of the deputies in the 80-member Lower House of Parliament extended to his moves for peace with Israel was sufficient endorsement under the Kingdom's Constitution.

As such, the King indicated, there was no need at present for a referendum among the people — an idea that he had first raised after signing the historic Washington Declaration with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on July 25.

"When I took the decision of ending the state of war with Israel I was confident that I was supported by the majority of the people of Jordan," the King said.

"We are seeking peace within the framework of an overall peace in the whole region, guaranteeing the rights of all parties," the King said.

The King ruled out the possibility of a visit to Arab Jerusalem on Saturday on the eve of the anniversary of the Prophet Mohammad's birthday, and said despite his keen desire to visit the Holy City, "the visit will not take place so soon as some people imagine."

On the peace process, the King noted that negotiations were continuing and said the results so far were encouraging.

The general feeling is positive and constructive and we have been feeling that the two sides have real concern to see rapid progress achieved in the discussion of various issues so that these efforts would be crowned with a peace treaty," the King said.

There is a lot of issues that require discussion and there are outstanding issues like the delineation of borders and the water resources question which need more time and efforts. But it should be noted that the atmosphere of the talks is encouraging and I believe that the negotiations are moving in the right direction," he said.

(Continued on page 7)

Dead Sea talks end today with no major breakthroughs on core issues

Jordan, Israel agree to cooperate in tourism

From Nermene Murad at Moriah Plaza Dead Sea Hotel

BILATERAL negotiations between Israel and Jordan will end today having registered progress in most committees but falling short of any ground-breaking agreements.

However, an agreement was reached Wednesday under which Israel and Jordan will soon sell joint organised tours to holidaymakers taking in both countries.

Jordanian Tourism Minister Mohammad Al Adwan and his Israeli counterpart Uzi Baran met at this hotel on the Israeli shore of the Dead Sea to draw up a joint family planning tourism strategy.

Dr. Adwan and his wife, Helen, and British experts accompanying Dr. Adwan proposed promoting tour packages for several visits to Israel and Jordan.

The two ministers agreed to set up a joint tourism commission to work out detailed arrangements.

It was the first time a Jordanian minister ventured inside Israel since the two countries signed the Washington Declaration last

month, ending a 46-year state of belligerency.

The countries hope joint packaging will increase overall tourism. Israel currently attracts almost two million visitors annually, about four times more than Jordan.

ity of peace. Tourism is one of the main sectors that will be affected."

Dr. Adwan noted Israeli and Jordanian citizens not holding a third country passport will not be able to cross the border before the signing

(Continued on page 7)



Tourism Minister Mohammad Adwan (right) with his Israeli counterpart Uzi Baran at the Moriah Plaza Dead Sea Hotel on Wednesday (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

King visits RJ technical services

and senior airline officials.

The King voiced full confidence in the airline's management and development abilities.

The King stressed the importance of training that helps raise the level of performance and noted that RJ will have an important and positive role as the Middle East peace process begins to yield results.



Judicial updating, central purchasing, fair commissions, organised approach to foreign investment among Royal Commission's tasks

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has emphasised the concept of an all-embracing approach to modernise Jordan's dealings vis-a-vis internal and external issues as part of the responsibilities entrusted with the newly-established Royal Commission for Reform and Modernisation (RCRM).

Addressing the first meeting of the commission, which he chairs under a directive from His Majesty King Hussein issued last week, the Crown Prince on Monday said the panel's approach to its task should be deep and cover every important aspect of public funds and public service.

Following is a summary of the Crown Prince's address to the commission:

Allow me to begin by extending a warm welcome to all of you, both in your capacity

as dignitaries in your own respective positions of responsibility, and as individuals possessed of extensive expertise in the domains of law, financial auditing and general institutional endeavour within the overall framework of the administrative set-up that looks to us expectantly for guidance and promotion.

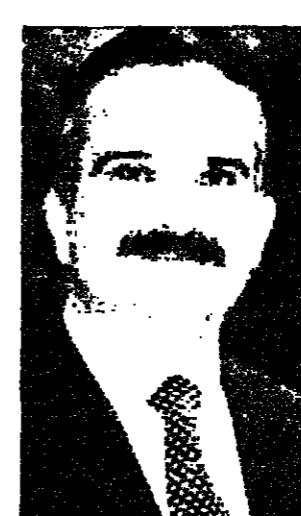
In speaking of Jordan, we are for all practical purposes speaking of a country that plays a pivotal role — political no less than geographical — and one that has been considered a model entity for the entire region in terms of the specific progress and advancement it has managed to bring about in the various fields of human endeavour.

During our recent visit to the Audit Bureau, and our meeting with the people concerned in both the Bureau of Administrative Inspection

recognition of the judicial role and the spirit of accountability that must exist within the framework of the modern state.

In today's dialogue we wish to stress the fact that the judiciary, which by the nature of its own particular function is not in daily contact with the public, must play the role envisaged within the scope of implementation and follow-up pertaining to all legislation. Indeed, we must recognise that, were the relevant valid laws properly administered, there would in reality have been a congenial atmosphere conducive to investment. To this effect, there is a clear reference in His Majesty's message regarding new prospects for cooperation among areas and regions, and regarding the European Community, Japan

(Continued on page 7)



and Control and the Ministry of Justice and the Law Courts, we felt a genuine desire not only for the measures that can bring about the required reform and modernisation, but also for a full

Abequa children flown out with maternal aunt; family protests

By Rana Hussein with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Two New Jersey children caught in an international custody dispute after their father killed their mother and brought them to his native Jordan were on their way back to the United States Wednesday.

Jordanian officials escorted six-year-old Lisa Abequa and her brother, Sami, 3, to the airport for a flight to the United States via Germany, according to well-placed sources, quoted by the AP.

Their maternal aunt, Nesime Dokur, of Paterson, New Jersey, flew out with them, said the sources.

"The saga over the custody of the two children was resolved," said one of the sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

They would not give details of the flight. But the only scheduled connection to Germany Wednesday was a Royal Jordanian flight to

Berlin which took off at 11:35 a.m. Airline and airport officials refused to give any information.

The sources also would not say how the dispute was resolved between Mohammad I. Abequa, who has confes-

sed to killing his wife, and Ms. Dokur.

But the children's paternal aunt, Mariam Abequa, said the children were taken out of the country without her family's knowledge.

Mr. Abequa, 46, fled to



Minister of State Abdullah Jazi on Wednesday meets with members of the Abequa family, including Samiha Abequa (left), grandmother of two Abequa children who were flown out, gathered in front of the Prime Ministry (photo by Rana Hussein)

Tourism first fruit of peace moves, but is Jordan ready for the wave?

By Ghadeer Taher

Special to the Jordan Times

ORK (R) —

Keith Haring filed

an infringement

of a Hawaiian man

and allegedly sold

contemporary art

he suit filed in

Federal Court

as well as

Acne Studios

and others

an estate over

years by selling

jewellery which

the artist's

works. The com-

pany is in dis-

pute with a Middle East Riviera.

He was only partly right. Jordan, according to official and unofficial sources, is largely on the receiving end of Israel's well-developed ideas on tourism development and has not yet drawn up its own master plan for tourism, now the country's third largest foreign currency earner.

The government has commissioned several master plans, including one for the Dead Sea, Petra and the southern parts of the country. But the Ministry of Tourism, the ultimate executive authority in tourism, concedes that such plans should have been completed a long time ago.

"But, on the other hand, we are getting prepared as fast as possible. The government is now giving priority to tourism development," Dr. Adwan said.

Sources close to the talks at the Israeli side of the Dead Sea say the possibility

ties are endless if the private and public sector get their act together.

"The Israelis are not smarter than us," said one negotiator. "They are better organised. Most importantly the private and public sectors are one unit promoting tourism. The public sector is at the service of tourism. Here it was just the opposite for a long time."

"The ministry is allocated very little money. Little has been done and we are running out of time," he said.

Although the opening of a border crossing for third country nationals in Aqaba is expected to attract

thousands of extra tourists every month, officials and many in the private sector warn that unless Jordan changes its ways, the kingdom will lose out to Israel's sophisticated tourist trade.

"Tourism will explode in peace time and we have to be on the train or we will miss everything," said Zaid Gousous, who runs a restaurant in the scenic Roman city of Umm Qais in the north of the country, where a second border crossing is expected to open soon. He is planning to open a small village hotel in Umm Qais and develop the Hinnom Roman baths near the ancient city.

For the tourism industry in Jordan the dilemma is threefold: The absence of any powers in the hands of the Ministry of Tourism, including legislative shortcomings, the shortage of skilled employees as well as the relegation of tourism in the government's view. But this may be changing, according to Dr. Adwan.

The Cabinet recently committed itself to allocating JD 14 million for infrastructure projects for Petra in the year 1995. The tourism industry is also counting on foreign assistance in developing the potential goldmine. The United

State Aid Agency, USAID, has given Jordan JD 1 million for immediate improvements of tourism sites and has pledged \$14 million over the next five years. The Japanese, the European Community and the World Bank have also promised to help.

The private sector agrees that it must be in the forefront of the tourism industry but insists that there was a great deal of work to be done so the country could cash in on the peace dividend.

"We should have started developing a strategy three years ago when we went to Madrid," said Mr. Nassar. apparently does not regard tourism or the ministry as very important for the country, that is a grave mistake," said an informed source. "We have to understand that in order to bring in money, we have to spend money."

Munir Nassar of International Trade, one of three businessmen negotiating with Israel, agreed that the government must provide the necessary infrastructure, including water, sewage, telephone, roads and parking to many of the country's tourist sites.

"The ministry's budget is minuscule for what is required. The government

(Continued on page 7)

Yemen president: Armed forces must be apolitical

SANA (Agencies) — President Ali Abdullah Saleh has said that any army personnel wanting to pursue political activities would have to leave their ranks.

"As of today there will be no party affiliations within the ranks of the armed forces and the security," President Saleh told a meeting of army officers.

"He who wants to remain a member of a political party has every right to do so, but he has to submit his resignation from the armed forces," he said, in remarks broadcast by Sanaa Television.

"Loyalty in the armed forces will be for God, the country, the revolution and the unity... no loyalty to any party or political organisation."

Northern and southern Yemeni forces fought a two-month civil war which ended on July 7 when Mr. Saleh's northern troops captured Aden, capital of a separatist state declared by former Yemeni Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beidh.

Mr. Saleh and Mr. Beidh took former North and South Yemen in 1990 into an uneasy union. Differences between the two men led to the civil war which started on May 4.

Forces of the formerly Marxist and more secular South and the more traditional North were never integrated under the united state and continued to follow orders from their pre-unitary commanders. Each was virtually under the control of its pre-merger ruler.

Sudan hopes for dividends after capture of Carlos

CAIRO (AFP) — Sudan is hoping to re-integrate itself into the international community after capturing and handing over to France the international extremist known as "Carlos the Jackal."

Immediately after the arrest, Sudanese Justice Minister Abdul Aziz Shidou asked the United States to remove Sudan from its list of countries that support international "terrorism."

Another minister, Ghazi Salaheddin Atabani, said Tuesday that Sudan was opposed to all forms of terrorism.

However, Washington said the act was insufficient to warrant the lifting of Sudan from its terrorist blacklist.

Opposition groups in Sudan have accused the regime of wanting to capitalise on the arrest to gain support for its campaign against Sudanese rebels.

The Sudanese regime is likely to continue its efforts to be seen in a new light by the international community after allegations of terrorist support, observers said.

Mr. Atabani said that Sudan had not decided on Carlos' extradition "under any regional or international pressure" but "in observance of the international conventions."

French Interior Minister Charles Pasqua said the case showed "that a hardline Islamic state had, in a clear manner, broken with terrorism or the support for terrorism which it had been accused or suspected of."

Mr. Pasqua reiterated Tuesday that there had been



Ali Abdullah Saleh

the armed forces," Mr. Saleh said.

Before the end of the war "there were virtually two armed forces, two presidents, two governments and two ministers of defence," he added. "Today, there is one army, one president and one defence minister."

Meanwhile, the pro-government wing of the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) announced Tuesday that its central committee would elect new leaders in a meeting on Sept. 1.

The San'a-based "temporary committee," which rallied to Mr. Saleh, said in a statement that the meeting "will elect a legitimate national leadership which will fix a date and a venue for the 4th YSP general congress."

Most YSP officials went into exile after the end of the two-month war.

Temporary committee spokesman Yehia Mansur Abu Ashab told AFP that 45 members are in Yemen, and a delegation will be sent to convince others to take part in the meeting so that the quorum figure of 56 out of 110 is reached.

Yemeni Foreign Minister Mohammad Bassandawa on Aug. 11 warned that the YSP will only be allowed to play a role in Yemeni politics if it expels its "separatist leaders."

The warning followed a three-day meeting of the YSP politburo in Damascus, where party officials expressed their "attachment to the unity" of Yemen but ignored a call from Mr. Saleh to oust Mr. Beidh.

"One of the most urgent steps in the process of rebuilding the armed forces is the restructuring, re-formation and the integration of

their territory in the first place.

Syria asked Carlos to leave its territory at the beginning of the year, a State Department spokesman told Tuesday.

The U.S. government has "reason to believe at some time Syria suggested to him that he might stay elsewhere."

As a general proposition, we encouraged President (Hafez Al) Assad and others not to provide safe haven to terrorist groups," said spokesman Michael McCurry.

He said the issue was brought up in a general way by Secretary of State Warren Christopher in his meetings with Mr. Assad. Mr. Christopher for months has acted as a middleman in Syrian-Israeli peace talks.

Syria remains at the top of the list of countries the United States considers official supporters of "terrorism."

On his last trip to the Mideast, Mr. Christopher spoke with the Syrian president about recent anti-Jewish bombings in Buenos Aires and London, which Washington has linked to the Lebanese group Hezbollah.

The U.S. press reports have said Carlos spent most of the past 10 years in Damascus before leaving Syria early this year. He travelled to Sudan and briefly to Yemen, the reports say.

"He was even too much of an embarrassment for Assad," former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) anti-terrorist chief Vincent Cannistraro told the New York Times. "He was of use to no one. He was expendable."

"no quid pro quo."

But the Sudanese opposition remains convinced that a deal has been struck. "Sudan would not have handed Carlos over to France except for a high price, and that's what worries us," said General Abdul Aziz Khaled, an opposition leader exiled in Cairo since the 1989 coup d'etat.

Abdoun Agaw of the Union of Sudanese African Parties (USAP), which groups several southern Sudanese parties, said: "The regime thinks that time will work for it and that the handover of Carlos will give it some breathing space, especially to reduce international pressure."

The Islamic junta in Sudan is also accused of serious human rights violations by the United Nations.

Gen. Khaled, the former commander of a military region in the rebel south, feared that Paris could use its right of veto, or at least "be charitable," if the Sudan question came before the U.N. Security Council.

Differences began to emerge Tuesday in the accounts given by the two governments in Carlos' arrest.

Mr. Atabani told a news conference "it was the Sudanese security services which were the first to suspect (Carlos) some weeks after his arrival in Khartoum."

"These suspicions were later confirmed by the French security services," the minister said.

Mr. Pasqua said the French security police had informed the Sudanese authorities of the presence of Carlos on

"overseas" news.

"He was of use to no one. He was expendable."

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 ... Un Siecle De Chansons Des Plantes Et Des Hommes

18:30 ... News in French

18:45 ... Enquetes Au Musée

19:00 ... News in Hebrew

19:15 ... Heart of Courage

20:00 ... Murder She Wrote

22:00 ... News in English

22:20 ... Movie of the Week

PRAYER TIMES

04:32 ... Fajr

05:56 ... (Sunrise) Dhuhr

12:00 ... Dhuhr

16:19 ... 'Asr

19:24 ... Maghreb

20:47 ... Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church

Swafford, Tel: 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel:

6327785.

St. Joseph Church Tel: 624590.

Church of the Assumption Tel:

637440.

De la Salle Church Tel: 661757

Ternessa Church Tel: 623366

Church of the Assumption Tel:

623541.

JORDAN CHURCHES

Tel: 630851, Tel:

622543.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel:

771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel:

775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel: 771751.

Assman International Church Tel:

624328.

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel: 684195

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel: 654932

Church of Nazarene Tel: 675691.

The Evangelical Local Church is Amman

Tel: 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Temperatures will continue their gradual drop this evening around average. The winds northerly are moderate to active in Azraq, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min/Max. temp.

Amman 20/33

Aqaba 26/41

Deserts 20/36

Jordan Valley 24/39

Yesterdays high temperatures: Amman 35 Aqaba 44. Humidity:

Food Control Centre 637111

JORDAN TELEVISION

readings: Amman 31 per cent.

Aqaba 13 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Hanan Mansour 750197

Al-Salam Klinik 815715

Dr. Farouq Nour 785680

Dr. Salah Al 'Urd 649028

Firat pharmacy 661912

Firdous pharmacy 778336

Al Asema pharmacy 637055

Najmikah pharmacy 623672

Al Salam pharmacy 637670

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shamsikah pharmacy 637660

Natoukah pharmacy 623672

Najib pharmacy 347632

IRID:

Dr. Mohammed Al Khalili 273099

Al Ouds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Hisham Hyas 552206

Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-53200

Al Khalifah pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 913813/32

Khalidi Maternity, J. Amm

CIVIL DEFENCE DEPARTMENT

661111

CIVIL DEFENCE IMMEDIATE

Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 62111, 637777

Fire Brigade 677101

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 596390

Police Department 602200

Fire Control 602200

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage

Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality

Complaints 787111

Telephone Information

(directory assistance) 121,

Sri Lanka opposition heads for narrow win in elections

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Sri Lanka's United National Party (UNP) appeared headed for defeat Wednesday after 17 years in power, with only a few general election results still to be announced.

Of the 196 directly elected seats in parliament, the opposition People's Alliance (PA) had so far won 90 and their allies the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress (SLMC) three, the Elections Commission's department said.

The UNP had 78, the Tamil United Liberation Front three, and Sri Lanka Progressive Front, a fringe left-wing party, one seat and an independent group, one.

Another 29 "bonus seats" in parliament are allocated to parties in proportion to their total number of votes.

Analysts said both sides were wooing small minority Tamil parties to strengthen their positions after Tuesday's poll, but the PA and its SLMC ally were only six short of a majority of directly-elected seats.

President Dingiri Bandaranaike said in a televised address to the nation he would announce the new gov-

ernment once the relative strengths of the parties were known.

"I appeal to all my countrymen to remain calm," he said. "You may rest assured that I will be acting in terms of the constitution."

Results from northern Sri Lanka are yet to be announced. Most Tamils there live in areas controlled by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam rebels and are unable to vote.

Despite widespread fears of violence the poll was largely peaceful with a turnout of 75 per cent.

The Tiger rebels, fighting since 1983 for independence in the island's north and east, did not carry out threats to disrupt the poll.

The government declared a state of emergency and a 33-hour curfew Tuesday night to avert post-election violence.

"The election has been very peaceful. There have been no major incidents of violence," said Camillus Fernando, a spokesman for an international observer group.

Police said they arrested 21 opposition supporters who broke the curfew and para-

ded through the streets in Anuradhapura district in the north-central area Wednesday.

Two PA supporters were stabbed to death in the eastern Ampara district during curfew hours Tuesday.

Campaigning for the elections was plagued by violence nationwide with 20 deaths, mostly of PA supporters, and scores of complaints of assault, harassment, burning of shops, houses and offices.

The UNP pledged in its campaign to continue the liberal economic policies that have enhanced Sri Lanka's growth and sparked rising foreign investment.

But the PA, led by Sri Lanka Freedom Party that ruled the island from 1970 to 1977, urged an end to what it termed widespread government bribery and corruption.

The PA also asked for a mandate to end the bloody civil war between majority Sinhalese and minority Tamils.

More than 10.9 million of the 17 million people were eligible to vote to elect representatives to parliament.

"We are talking to the minority parties in an effort

to form a new government," a Peoples' Alliance official said on condition of anonymity, as the group's leaders met behind closed doors.

However, the governing United National Party refused to say it had lost the election until the final vote was counted.

Mr. Wijetunga can appoint anyone he wants as prime minister and ask them to try to form a coalition government.

In a national television address, he refused to say who he would choose as prime minister until the final vote is announced on Wednesday night or Thursday morning.

If the alliance takes control of parliament, it has promised to restructure the government by stripping the presidency of its many powers and parliament will have more control.

Mr. Wijetunga took power in 1993, when his party's authoritarian president, Rama Singh Premadasa, was assassinated, and the UNP doesn't want presidential powers weakened or rebel negotiations.



Soldiers check curfew passes of a motorist at Colombo's main Galle Road. Sri Lanka was brought under a state of emergency to prevent post-election violence after Tuesday's parliamentary elections (AFP photo)

Protesters hurt in Lesotho shooting after king dissolves government

MASERU (R) — Soldiers and police opened fire on protesters, wounding several, outside the king's palace in the Lesotho capital Maseru Wednesday, witnesses said.

"There has been some shooting. A number of people have been wounded," said a witness to the shooting outside the palace where hundreds were protesting over King Letsie III's dissolution of the African mountain kingdom's government and parliament earlier in the day.

Another witness said eight people had been wounded. "The shooting started after an army vehicle went into the crowd and the protesters threw stones at the vehicle. Those inside the army truck then started shooting... police and soldiers guarding the palace joined in and fired at the people," he said.

"People have dispersed. Those who were wounded were being carried into police vans to be taken to hospital," a local shopkeeper said.

The question was slipped in at a meeting with reporters meant to focus on recent trip he made as co-chairman of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia.

"I've been in Serbia and Bosnia and I've seen it in some Serbian papers. But I must tell you, I am not prepared to talk about the future," he said.

Mr. Stoltenberg and former Italian Prime Minister Giuliano Amato have been mentioned in speculation about a possible successor to Manfred Woerner, the former West German defence minister.

Mr. Stoltenberg expressed great regret at Mr. Woerner's death while noting that, as Norway's foreign minister, he had "worked fairly secretively against him being secretary-general" and had supported the candidacy of former Norwegian Prime Minister Kaare Willoch.

"The elections will be democratic, impartial and transparent," President Carlos Salinas de Gortari pledged Monday while greeting members of Mexico's World Cup soccer team at his residence here.

A repeat candidate, Mr. Cardenas told thousands of supporters in Sinaloa state this week that he would be willing to "head civil resistance" should vote-counting computers fail like they did in his bruising 1988 loss.

Mr. Zedillo leads the polls by 20 percentage points or more over Diego Fernandez de Cevallos of the conservative National Action Party. Mr. Cardenas trails in third after a lackluster race, strapped for advertising funds.

WASHINGTON (R) — Republicans Wednesday began to make their first formal move to scale back the Senate Democratic health plan, but have not signalled readiness to move the bill ahead rapidly.

After majority leader George Mitchell, a Maine Democrat, vowed to keep them in session all night long if they didn't stop giving speeches and start making decisions, Republicans decided they would rather vote than sleep in the Senate.

In exchange for their agreement to vote on the debut Democratic amendment, Republicans got a chance to offer their own first amendment Wednesday morning. But they gave Democrats no reason to hope that the debate would move quickly.

"We're not going to be rushed... we're not going to be stamped by the Democrats," said minority leader Bob Dole, a Kansas Republican.

"We'll obviously move as expeditiously as we have in the past," he added.

But Sen. Dole seemed to distance himself from Texas Republican Phil Gramm's threat to unleash a "torrent" of amendments to stop what Sen. Gramm consistently calls President Bill Clinton's determination to "socialise" American medicine.

"I hadn't been advised of that (Gramm's game plan). There are a lot of chiefs around," said Sen. Dole.

Republican senators said several amendments were being contemplated for the opening salvo. A likely candidate was Oklahoma Republi-

can businessman said.

The 34-year-old king said in a 5 a.m. (0300 GMT) broadcast he was also suspending parts of the constitution and fresh elections would be held because the people were dissatisfied with the 16-month-old government.

Shops and businesses in Maseru closed and more than 2,000 chanting supporters of Prime Minister Ntsu Mokhehle and his Basutoland Congress Party (BCP) that won elections in 1993 converged on the palace, denouncing the king's action as illegal.

They displayed placards, one of which said: "This is the time for the end of the monarch."

Police and soldiers prevented the marchers from approaching the palace and barricaded nearby roads, witnesses said.

The marchers proceeded peacefully to the residence of the prime minister, who was reported to be in a meeting with his cabinet colleagues. Party officials said he sought a meeting with the king.

The king said in his broadcast: "I am dissolving the parliament and government of Lesotho with immediate effect because of dissatisfaction."

tion" among his subjects.

Speaking in the local Sesotho language and English, the king said a provincial council representing all the people was being established and would take over from Mr. Mokhehle's government.

Lesotho, which is about the size of Belgium and ringed by South Africa, has been rocked this year by a police strike and a mutiny by soldiers in which the deputy prime minister was killed.

King Letsie replaced his father, King Moshoeshoe who was deposed and went into exile in Britain in 1990 after differences with the then military government over how to run the country.

The BCP was voted into power in March 1993 in Lesotho's first multi-party elections in 20 years, but has faced growing popular support, particularly over how King Moshoeshoe was ousted.

On Monday five opposition parties presented a petition to King Letsie asking him to stand down.

King Letsie is reported to be in favour of allowing his father to resume office as a constitutional monarch, leaving real power to a newly-elected government.

Jackson sued again

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Pop Star Michael Jackson is being sued by the stepfather of the 13-year-old boy who last year accused the singer of sexually molesting him. The man claimed Jackson broke up his family by plying the teenager and his mother with thousands of dollars worth of presents. In the lawsuit, filed Tuesday, the man claims Jackson took the boy and his mother on no-limit shopping sprees in Florida and Las Vegas. Danny Davis, the stepfather's lawyer, described Jackson's action as being a "classic pedophilic strategy." After the boy's allegation of sexual abuse against Jackson surfaced in August 1993, Davis said the stepfather separated from his wife and her son after eight years of marriage. Jackson's lawyer Howard Weitzman dismissed the latest suit against his multi-millionaire client. "This lawsuit is an attempt to take advantage of his fame and notoriety in order to get money," said Mr. Weitzman. Jackson is believed to have paid the 13-year-old boy \$15 million earlier this year to settle a civil action brought by the teenager. The stepfather received nothing from the settlement.

Meanwhile police in Los Angeles and Santa Barbara continue to investigate the sexual molestation allegations against Jackson but no charges have been filed against him despite the year-long investigation.

8 countries reach debating quarterfinals

WELLINGTON (AFP) — The world's best teenage debaters will be under real pressure here as the World Schools Debating Championships goes into the quarterfinals. After the preliminary rounds, eight of the 13 countries made it into the quarterfinals. They are Australia, Canada, England, New Zealand, Pakistan, Scotland, the United States and Wales. Organiser Rosemary Dixon said Wednesday would be the toughest phase of the competition so far. "The pressure is really on to perform as a loss now puts the losing team out of the championships." Contestants will be given a topic only 90 minutes before the debate begins in each of the quarterfinals. The Grand Final will be held in the banqueting hall of the Beehive at parliament Thursday. England is the current champion.

S. Korea bars Penthouse

SEOUL (R) — The South Korean government said Wednesday it had banned a Korean version of a steamy Penthouse magazine publication because censors deemed it indecent. "The magazine has been found unsuitable for South Koreans. We are still a conservative nation," an official at the Culture Ministry said. The 116-page Korean version of Penthouse's "The Girls Of Penthouse" reached South Korea's newsstands last month but was seized by police less than a week later.

Penthouse, with its photos of nude women, is traditionally aimed at a mostly male market. The magazine says it is published in collaboration with Penthouse International using the Penthouse logo and trademark by permission.

Mr. Gingrich, the second-ranking Republican to the House of Representatives, said after the meeting, "the president indicated a very strong interest to work with us in a bipartisan basis. We're going to honour that."

"We hope within 48 hours to have an agreement that is genuinely bipartisan," Mr. Gingrich said, stressing that details had to be worked out.

"I think the president accepts that he will have to accept less money," the Republican leader said. When asked if he expected billions of dollars to be cut, Mr. Gingrich said "that is closer to the direction they're going to end up in, rather than hundreds" of millions.

A senior White House official, however, said "the president did not agree to any specifics of any kind" but acknowledged a willingness to discuss spending cuts in order to salvage the bill, now stalled in the House.

In addition to Mr. Gingrich and Mr. Hyde, Mr. Clinton also met with the 11 Republicans who were with him on the losing side last week when a procedural vote blocked debate on the crime bill.

Last week's defeat for Mr. Clinton was due in large part to an intense lobbying campaign generated by the National Rifle Association — which bitterly opposes a ban on the sale of 19 different assault weapons.

Charges of biased news coverage as Mexico election race draws to close



Ernesto Zedillo (right), presidential candidate for Mexico's ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) waves to thousands of supporters during a campaign rally in Ecatepec, Mexico.

Mr. Zedillo, who has based his campaign on the theme "well-being for your family," said in a recent interview that for the first time since 1928 a victory for the PRI will not come easy (AFP photo)

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico's presidential campaign began drawing to a close Tuesday as opposition candidate Cuauhtemoc Cardenas complained he had been shut off from last-minute airtime on television.

Mr. Cardenas, candidate of the leftist Democratic Revolutionary Party, lost a bruising 1988 election and was through a spokesman that he will be vigilant for any possible fraud in Sunday's balloting.

His spokesman, Adolfo Aguilar Zinser, said it appeared pro-government television had "closed off" last blocks of newscasts to the Cardenas campaign. He did not specify whether he was referring to the giant network Televisa.

The report, by the United Nations Population Fund, said improving women's status through education and health care is the key to slowing the population boom.

The annual report comes less than three weeks before the Sept. 5 opening of a U.N. conference, expected to draft a 20-year plan for controlling world population, which has already drawn Vatican fire.

Pope John Paul II has launched one of the biggest battles of his 16-year reign against the conference, saying it will spur abortion and birth control and threaten the traditional family.

Many Muslims also have criticised the conference as a challenge to their beliefs, maintaining it will foster abortion and sex outside marriage. The conference's draft report was condemned by Cairo's Al Azhar University, the major centre of Muslim thought, and by various radical Islamic spokesmen.

Like the conference proposal, the report released to the news "encourage abortions"

"This is an ominous preamble to the vote," said Aguilar Zinser, who said the Mexican media have shown undue sympathies for the front-running candidate, Ernesto Zedillo, of the Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI.

Aguilar Zinser said hundreds of Mr. Cardenas' poll watchers will blanket at least seven in every 10 of the more than 94,000 voting sites in Mexico Sunday to deter any fraud. About 45.7 million Mexicans are eligible to vote.

The government has brushed aside suggestions it may try to manipulate the vote, and Televisa and leading newspapers have allocated greater space to opposition candidates in this election.

Zimbabwe, Thailand and Colombia — the report calls for national programmes which invest in women's education and health and make greater efforts to improve their status.

"Study after study in country after country has found that on average, the more educated women are, the more likely they are to use contraception and limit fertility," said Tim Dyson, professor of population studies at the London School of Economics.

But Professor Julian Simon of the University of Maryland, who has written extensively about population, accused the population fund of talking about freedom but wanting governments "to persuade and coerce people to have different numbers of children than the couples want."

"Personal and economic liberty are the most powerful forces working for economic development, including the freedom to choose the number of children you want," he said.

More than 25 per cent of international population assistance to developing countries is channelled through the United Nations Population Fund, which carries out programmes in more than 130 countries and territories.

Citing three countries which have successfully confronted population growth —

Stoltenberg silent on prospects for top NATO post

UNITED NATIONS (R) —

"Is that on the agenda?" retorted former Norwegian Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg when asked Tuesday about his chances of being chosen secretary-general of NATO.

The question was slipped in at a meeting with reporters meant to focus on recent trip he made as co-chairman of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia.

"I've been in Serbia and Bosnia and I've seen it in some Serbian papers. But I must tell you, I am not prepared to talk about the future," he said.

Mr. Stoltenberg and former Italian Prime Minister Giuliano Amato have been mentioned in speculation about a possible successor to Manfred Woerner, the former West German defence minister.

Mr. Stoltenberg expressed great regret at Mr. Woerner's death while noting that, as Norway's foreign minister, he had "worked fairly secretively against him being secretary-general" and had supported the candidacy of former Norwegian Prime Minister Kaare Willoch.

"The elections will be democratic, impartial and transparent," President Carlos Salinas de Gortari pledged Monday while greeting members of Mexico's World Cup soccer team at his residence here.

A repeat candidate, Mr. Cardenas told thousands of supporters in Sinaloa state this week that he would be willing to "head civil resistance" should vote-counting computers fail like they did in his bruising 1988 loss.

Mr. Zedillo leads the polls by 20 percentage points or more over Diego Fernandez de Cevallos of the conservative National Action Party. Mr. Cardenas trails in third after a lackluster race, strapped for advertising funds.

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Argument for the law

AS MEMBERS of the Abequa family gathered in front of the Prime Ministry to demand that the law be the final arbiter in the custody case for the children of their son who confessed to killing his wife in the United States, Lisa and Sami were boarding a plane on their way to the United States.

Whether Lisa and Sami will have a better life in the custody of their mother's or father's family is not the most important issue at this point. What should be of the utmost import is the application of the law to resolve this most difficult case.

The two children were in Jordan and the family of their father as well as that of their mother have applied for custody. There are Jordanian laws governing such a conflict. The law should have been applied and a court of law should have been the final arbiter in the case. Given our belief in the fairness and independence of the country's judicial system, the court ruling would have been accepted by all, except probably the U.S. which might believe more in the soundness of its own laws.

The Abequa children were flown out of Jordan without a court decision. This is, regardless of all good intentions involved, a blow not only to the family who have put their faith in the judiciary but also to the whole democratic process in Jordan. Democracy is about the application and respect of law. In this case, it is clear that the law took a back seat to politics or to extrajudicial deals.

It was American politicians who politicised what should have been a purely legal matter. Yet again, those politicians provided an evidence of their hypocrisy in dealing with democracy and the rule of the law in other countries. Granted the greatest fault lay with the absence of an extradition treaty between Jordan and the U.S., but that should not mean that American officials and parliamentarians should insist on their own laws superseding other countries' statutes and legal procedures.

Maybe the political pressure was a bit too much for Jordan to resist. However, the Kingdom could have made an impeccable argument for resolving the case in a court of law. Furthermore, this country could have voiced its argument publicly inside the United States itself. The government could have told the Americans Jordan is a democracy and in a democracy it is illegal to break the law.

The U.S. would have had a hard time defeating this argument in public. It would have betrayed the pillars of its own system had it done so.

We do not know how the majority of Jordanians feel about what happened yesterday. We do know, however, that some Jordanians stand to suffer from the decision to send the children back to the United States. Among those will be the Abequa family, which was not given a fair chance to prove that Lisa and Sami could have been better off with them. Maybe the Abequas should fight for custody in American courts with the support of those who can assist financially. The one thing they could be sure of there is that U.S. officials will have a hard time trying to break American laws.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Wednesday voiced his rejection of the reported proposal calling for a Saudi-Palestinian-Jordanian supervision of the holy places in Jerusalem. Tareq Masa'weh said that Jordan has a special and unique role in caring for the holy places and has been exercising this role through the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs before and during the Israeli occupation of Palestine. Admitting that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) or the Palestine National Authority (PNA) should have geo-political sovereignty over the holy city, the writer said that the holy sites in particular could be placed under a special Islamic committee that would take charge of maintenance, restoration and other safeguards in conjunction with the Jordanian Ministry of Awqaf and the Palestine National Authority. Referring to the Washington Declaration, the writer said that it provided for a special Jordanian role which would be taken into account when the Israelis and the Palestinians start discussing the future of the holy city. He said that Jordan does not claim sovereignty over the city of Jerusalem but is seeking to reaffirm its historic and traditional role of caring for the holy shrines in collaboration with the Islamic World. He said the Oslo agreement does not provide for the involvement of Saudi Arabia in supervising the holy places and the Washington Declaration stipulate a Jordanian religious sovereignty.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour drew attention to the need to offer facilities for investment in new development projects in Jordan. Mohammad Daoud said that the country has been witnessing increasing indicators of increased desires for investments, something which increases optimism and confidence in the national economy. It is incumbent on the government, said the writer, to offer investors further incentives and more facilities, especially those interested in industry, tourism and services sectors.

The View From Academia

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

Writing as an expression of self: Problems, solutions

WRITING IS perhaps the most difficult subject to teach, in our part of the world, both at the school and university levels. Not only are there so many factors and variables to deal with (noticeably more so than in most other subjects) but also writing seems to be more directly tied than other subjects to the state of the culture at large. Regrettably, our present-day educational and cultural climate is not congenial to good writing.

We must at the outset distinguish between creative and expository writing. The former refers essentially to "literary" texts, such as poems, short stories, novels, plays, etc. The latter refers to non-literary texts, those written with a more immediate or specific purpose in mind — such as essays, scholarly articles, reports, letters, etc. In creative writing, one enjoys a great deal of freedom in both the choice of the theme itself and the style of writing. Aside from some tacit norms and conventions related to the use of language and to the handling of genre, there are virtually no rules as to how one ought to write. In fact, in most cases (such as in modern literature) the excellence of literary works stems from their conscious violation of norms and conventions — Emily Dickinson, T.S. Eliot, James Joyce, and E.E. Cummings are good examples. In expository writing, by contrast, there are explicit rules with respect both to theme and style, rules which must be adhered to by all, all the time. As I tell my students, George Bush and Bill Clinton have probably changed the shape of Middle Eastern politics for a long time to come, but that would never change the use of a semicolon or a comma.

My main concern here is with expository writing.

The state of contemporary Arab written discourse is indeed far from satisfactory. The majority of texts written in Arabic by Arabs today, in nearly any field, abound with errors of all sorts — some understandable but most outrageous. There are mistakes not only in punctuation (which many seem to treat as decorative rather than functional), in diction, in grammar, in structure but also in clarity, coherence, cohesion, logic. You name it. I have seen many instances where a full stop is placed in the middle of the sentence, not at the end of it; where there is no topic sentence whatsoever in the paragraph or where there are too many; where the writer jumps from one point to the other without us knowing how; where texts are unbearably repetitious; where words are too abstract and hollow; where whole paragraphs and sections are absolutely pointless or nonsensical. The sad thing here is that such "crimes against the language" (to use a phrase by Mark Twain) occur not just in material produced by students at school or university but by professionals whose material is published, some of whom are celebrities. Look at the editorials and feature stories in the Arabic dailies, the Radio and TV news

bulletins, school textbooks, articles or books written by intellectuals in the various spheres, etc. I have read books (many books) whose 200-page argument could be succinctly summarised in 10 pages, is too pedestrian or obvious to be published, or is so circumlocutory it is an insult to the reader. Should not there be a difference between the way my semi-literate grandmother writes and the way experts write?

Generally, there are many causes for poor writing. Some are linguistic (i.e. the person's command of the language, which is an essential tool), some technical (the know-how of writing as a process or a craft), some have to do with practice and experience (the more one writes the better one becomes at it), some with the teaching environment itself (the approach or method of instruction, the text used, the teacher, etc.).

In our society, however, the most crucial causes are the following three, in my opinion.

1. Very little writing is done at the school level. A quick look at most school syllabi in the Arab World, especially at public schools which cater for the majority of students, reveals that writing is immensely marginalised. Not only is there an obvious lack of emphasis on written reports and research but the "composition" lessons, along with "art" and "physical training," are not taken seriously. The writing that is done in exams, which has lessened remarkably with the spread of the so-called objective tests, is graded on the basis of information only. The language, the style and the method of organisation are not taken into consideration. If students are not given the chance to write extensively at an early stage, when their readiness to learn and master skills is presumably at its best, how can they become effective writers?

2. The conception of writing itself at our schools seems to be faulty. We teach our students what we call in Arabic "Insha". In theory, the term, which translates into "construction" or "composition," is quite apt. Writing is indeed a process of constructing and composing; it is much like building a house, where one makes up a design first (which corresponds in writing to the outline) and then proceeds to translate its various components into neat realities step-by-step. In practice, however, "Insha" is quite simply a disaster. "Yunsh" has come to mean "create freely." The process is very similar to creative writing in its loosest sense. Even though students are told that there ought to be logic and organisation, they are not held accountable for them; nor are they shown how to write logically or organise, in the first place. Most teachers encourage students to write flowery words and rhythmic phrases, highly metaphoric expressions, and sweeping generalisation — i.e. everything

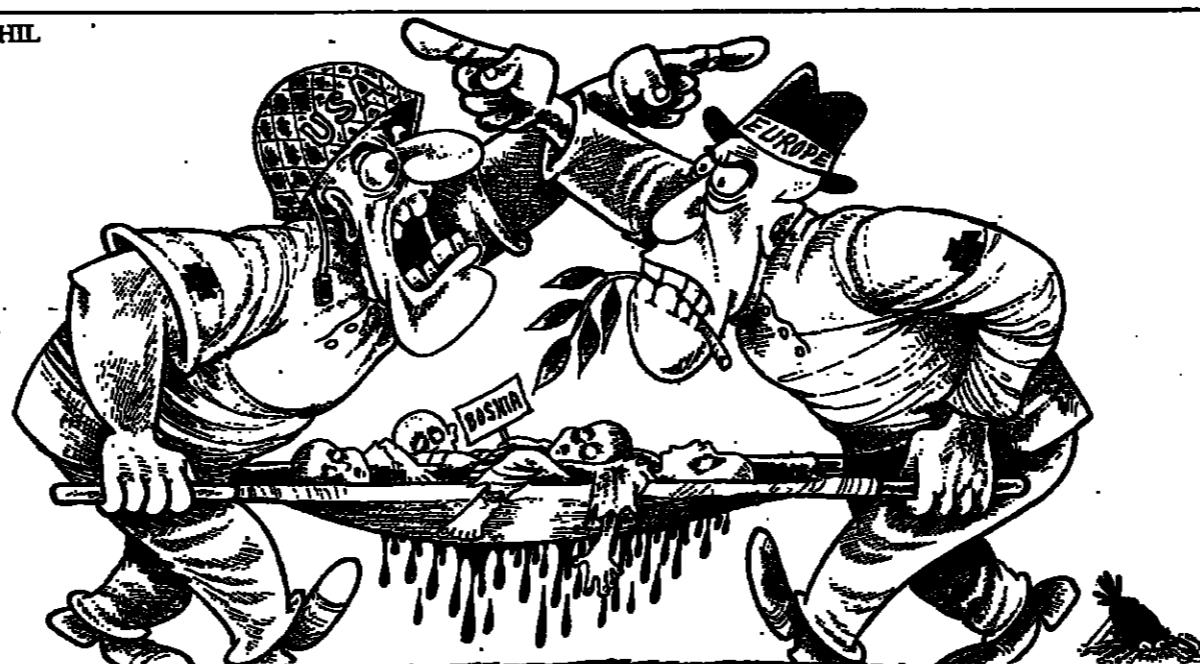
which ought to be discouraged in expository writing. The models students try to emulate when they write their home assignments, and when they grow up to be full-fledged authors, are the likes of Dickinson, Eliot, Joyce, and Cummings. What they produce is poetic prose. Thus an essay about "agriculture in Jordan" is written in the style of, and may read like, a love letter: no facts, no evidence, no logic, no analysis.

3. Those who write in our part of the world lack the level of commitment required for good writing. Writing is highly controlled, highly orderly, highly disciplined, highly meticulous, highly responsible, highly demanding, and even highly uninteresting. It is a very long and a very difficult and painful process. One has to think, read about the subject, think some more, attempt an outline, draft an outline, revise the outline, translate the outline into a draft, rewrite the draft, then revise, etc. Individuals in our culture (today) are, frankly, too impatient, too carefree, too quick, too undisciplined, too disorderly to live up to the challenge of writing. Most want to sit down for half an hour or an hour and write a masterpiece. Ask our students: they know that there ought to be an outline, a draft, revision, a topic sentence, development, organisation, etc. They know. Ask them to write, they do not pay attention to what they know. The state of writing in our society is like the traffic situation in our towns and cities. Who does not know that at a stop-sign one is supposed to stop? But who stops? They know the use of the semicolon but they ignore it when they write. The problem is cultural and sociological in my opinion. They are too impatient, too lazy, and too noncommittal — three bad traits which are inherited from the culture at large.

To write well, we have to teach writing well. First, we need to rethink the concept of "Insha" and replace it with "Writing." While the first is highly impressionistic and free, the latter is scientific and controlled. We can benefit from the experience of other nations with writing, because writing (regardless of the peculiar cultural traits affecting written discourse in any given society) is a universal discipline. Secondly, we must give our students the opportunity to write fairly frequently and consistently until the writing process becomes almost second nature to them or until it becomes spontaneous, like the water they drink and the air they breathe. Thirdly, we ought to focus on the mental and social impediments which stand in the way of commitment to writing and seek help from experts in solving them — a task which is not at all easy.

Writing is important, more important than many in our society think. It is an expression of self, an expression of identity. It is time to take it more seriously and to reconsider where we (individuals and institutions alike) stand in relation to it.

M. KAHIL



Algeria's civil war smoulders on

By Francis Ghiles

THE INCREASING violence which has racked Algeria in recent weeks has quite overshadowed the agreement North Africa's largest nation reached with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) last May. The violence, which is claiming both Algerian and foreign lives and which is now striking at the very heart of Algiers, has convinced many Western observers that even if the current round of negotiations on foreign debt, whose aim is to loosen the financial noose which has forced Algeria to pay more than 88 per cent of its foreign income to service its debt to Western creditors, is successful, the country's leader will not be in a position to kick-start an economy which has been in decline since 1986.

The number of victims claimed by the violence of the past two years is now estimated to have passed 5,000. Many of these are ordinary men and women. They belong to that mass of Algerians who are not supporters of radical Islam but shun supporting a government whose legitimacy they reject.

Prominent intellectuals and scientists continue to be targeted by the fundamentalists, such as the head of the veterinary school, Mohammad Bekhouche, who was killed on July 11, but foreigners have recently paid a heavy toll. Seven Italian sailors were murdered as they slept in their cargo ship off the port of Djedjed on July 7 and five technicians working with the state oil and gas monopoly, Sonatrach, were taken off a company bus a week later and shot in front of their Algerian peers in cold blood.

Most of these acts are deemed to have been carried out by the radical Armed Islamic Group, which has vowed to target people who "help" the Algerian government. But proof of who perpetrated these acts is usually hard to come by and there exist those who have vested interests, who, in the view of many Algerians, would not hesitate to kill if they felt those were threatened.

The slaying of foreign engineers working for Sonatrach could have serious economic repercussions as it is the first time the activities of the oil company have been specifically targeted. Income from oil and gas exports account for 96 per cent of all Algeria's foreign earnings and the more liberal policy enacted in 1991 is attracting many oil companies to drill in the country. Indeed a few days after this incident, the U.S. company Arco signed a \$1.3bn production sharing deal in an existing field with Sonatrach. Other such deals are expected to follow which are vital for Algeria's future economic wellbeing.

France and the U.S. diverge

Another development causing concern in Algiers relates to the growing divergence which has appeared between the French and U.S. positions over how to respond to the deepening crisis. The U.S. has for some time made clear its preference for dialogue between the military and all the political forces in Algeria, not least the fundamentalists. Policy-makers in Washington have attempted to draw conclusions from their country's long estrangement with Iran and the violent anti-Western feelings displayed by Arab public opinion at

ter Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

The conclusions are four-fold. Washington does not wish to replace one "ism" with another, e.g. Communism with Islam, and strongly objects to being labelled the "Great Satan." Second, while it is concerned at the activities of Sudan and Iran, it does not believe there is a "monolithic international control being exercised over the various Islamic groups in the region." Third, it is suspicious of those who would use the democratic process to come to power only to retain political dominance. Finally, while it does not wish to impose a Western model of democracy on the Middle East, it does believe that broad political participation contributes to long-term stability.

The Italians and, even more, the Spaniards, share such views but are reticent of expressing them in too public and forthright a manner. Germany will not wish to contradict France whose support it needs in matters East European. French politicians do not disagree with the U.S. position in private but do not appreciate such views being expressed publicly. They fear that the possible advent of an Islamic state in the run-up to next year's elections will lend support to right-wing leaders such as Le Pen. Many interests tie Algeria's nomenclature to French interests, which could be upset by a change of regime. The government of Prime Minister Balladur has canvassed its Western allies to support the IMF package of reforms and the rescheduling of Algeria's debt. Most countries have, some rather more reluctantly than others. But all agree in private that in the absence of a broader poli-

tical consensus, they may be throwing good money after bad.

Algeria is not part of U.S. strategic concerns in the Middle East. These are, by name, Israel, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. Its policy makers are not unaware of the "spill-over" risks that the advent of a fundamentalist regime in Algiers might carry. But they despair of Algerian leaders' capacity to rebuild a political consensus. Earlier this month, the veteran, leader, Hocine Ait Ahmed, who is secretary-general of the secular Front des Forces Socialistes, criticised France for not putting its weight in the balance to encourage the Algerian government to dialogue. Dialogue, not just between the two sides which have been confronting each other since the elections were suspended two and a half years ago, but dialogue with all the parties, including the Front de Libération National. What Mr. Ait Ahmed says from Europe, the former reformist prime minister, Mouloud Hamrouche, says in Algiers.

The question today is who is talking to who? The fundamentalists are fragmented, groups will kill rather than talk. The same appears to be true on the other side. A veil of mystery surrounds the army leadership which is nearly as thick as that which surrounds the fundamentalist groups. The absence of statues on either side simply encourages the spoilers. Meanwhile the mass of Algerians refuse to join in, an attitude which both sides deplore but which, to date, has prevented a low-combustion civil war from turning into all-out conflict.

Middle East International

Mandela's tests are yet to come

By Brendan Boyle
Reuter

CAPI: TOWN — South African President Nelson Mandela has won the hearts of a divided nation during his first 100 days in office.

But colleagues and political analysts say the real tests, including the judgement of voters who have pinned their hopes on him, are still to come.

"I don't think he could have done better," said arch-rival Mangosuthu Buthelezi, leader of the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party and Home Affairs Minister in Mandela's constitutionally enforced coalition cabinet.

"He has performed very well as a father figure and as a head of government... I think he has a firm hand on government policy," said Mr. Buthelezi, one of Mr. Mandela's fiercest critics before the country's first all-race elections last April.

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Middle East International

Minister Derek Keys, acknowledged that the expectations of the 12 million people who put Mr. Mandela in power could become a crisis.

If not enough is done in this early period of governance in the next six or seven months, then the gap between aspirations and delivery will become a serious one," he said.

Admitting that his main surprise had been to learn that government was harder than he expected, Mr. Erwin added:

"The next 100 days is going to be tougher than the last 100 days. But I think in the next 100 days some of the fruit of the preparatory work that has been carried out will start reaching the ground.

"If we spend a little bit longer in these early stages, I think we will be able to go faster. Time spent now will be saved later," he said.

That logic appeals to the business community, but it is harder to sell in black townships where unemployment is estimated at over 40 per cent and 1.5 million families live in shanties of cardboard and plastic.

He is expected to spell out details of the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) crafted by his African National Congress (ANC) to eliminate the backlog of 340 years of white rule.

Mr. Mandela promised in his first address to the new black-led parliament on May 24 to extend the frontier of freedom.

"My government's commitment to create a people-centred society of liberty binds us to the pursuit of the goals of freedom from want, freedom from hunger, freedom from deprivation, freedom from ignorance, freedom from suppression and freedom from fear," he said.

After 100 days, however, the only tangible evidence of his promise of a better life is a new deal giving free medical care to pregnant women and to children under six if they are in reach of a hospital.

A school-feeding scheme for the country's poorest children will go into effect on Sept. 1.

For the rest, Mr. Mandela's government has named hundreds of task forces and working groups to research the implementation of the

Weekender

Aug. 18, 1994

Published Every Thursday

Jerash Festival deserves a better press coverage

By Mohammad Mashariqa

The 13th Jerash Festival is over. New files have been added to the festival's rich art treasury, and very soon the festival's administrators will commence with the preparations for the next year's collection. It is our duty and a must to open the 13-year-old files and scientifically review the records, bearing the fact in our minds, that self-criticism and honesty is the first step towards progress and development.

My primary concern in this procedure is the exploration of the relationship between the local press and the festival and its development within this period of time.

Apparently, the role of the press in promoting the festival and featuring it as an international and local cultural occasion has been deteriorating throughout these years. The press neither succeeded as a news promoter, nor as a cultural media in reflecting the real local art movement and art criticism. Therefore, we came up with the two general approaches of the press. One voices the echoes of the personal battlefields and interests, carrying out all unprogressive attitudes of the local tribalism, and the other one views the festival as a flat board where only dates and places alternate along the time line, while the cultural and deep human content never appears in the media's focus. It wasn't surprising that at the end, the press coverage of the festival depended upon personal relationships and moods of individuals, sometimes deforming and modifying it and many times boycotting it completely. In this way the press didn't only degrade the festival and its own professional efficiency, it committed a crime against citizen's right on information and stood on the way against constructive and effective interaction between the society and its cultural product embodied in the festival.

After thirteen years, it is time to put an end to all these destructive and unprofessional practices of the local media, and start changing them by open-minded and scientific ways of thinking, whereas

promotion of the festival should never be looked upon as a personal issue, but should be handled as a science and industry. Promotion also reflects the society's visions, its socio-political and cultural aspects and its psychological references.

Regarding the request about establishing progressive press role in the cultural movement, we came to the question: How much are the journalists qualified to carry out such role? Observing the cultural and art pages in the local papers, it is evident that the local media lack experts and critics in different art fields. It is very rare to read or watch on TV an in-depth dialogue about certain art or cultural phenomena. While other Arab capitals act as cultural centres which generate new art movements and revise and develop cultural heritage in a genuine way, Amman only echoes what is going on around. As long as we neglect the importance of constructive criticism, need for close cooperation between critics and artists and

AMMAN CULTURAL PULSE

constant process of self-evaluation and professional improvement, we will remain a provincial village, at the margins of the Arab and international cultural movements.

The Jordanian intellectuals could be divided into three categories:

1 — Semi-intellectuals and insufficiently educated individuals who build their career on the backs of their narrow beliefs, tribalism.

2 — Snobs who underrate local values on behalf of the foreign cultural achievements.

3 — Tiny layer of the educated professionals who abandoned their fields under pressure of underdeveloped social readiness to accept their expertise.

Considering all these facts, we shouldn't be surprised with the press reflection of the Jerash Festival this year, and the years before. Confidently we conclude that until now the local press failed as a critical observer and a promotional media. It was stuck on the level of superficial reporting or on

attempts of presenting this cultural event as an alienated political-ideological occasion. Hence, many high standard artistic shows were turned into miserable events by the unprofessional attitudes of journalists, or dialogues between traditional and modern Arabic poetry were highlighted through the prism of the personal conflicts.

The Jerash Daily which is traditionally published during the festival, this year also failed to improve its standard. It was clear through its imbalanced coverage policy, exaggerated spacing, obvious personal clashes through the articles and unsatisfactory response to the real needs of the festival's readers.

The other local papers and the JTV handled the festival in a very superficial and naive way. They neglected the fact that the Jerash Festival, as a national and international cultural event, is as much important as any other political event, since the cultural battle is also a political battle at the same time. The JTV in particular looked at the festival as an opportunity for meat, chips and soft drink promotion, being barely conscious about its cultural and promotional role within the festival.

For all these points mentioned above, I came to the conclusion that it is the responsibility of every Jordanian to contribute in his own way to promote the Jerash Festival.

A proper promotion of the festival could be achieved through:

1 — Establishing a qualified press committee, consisting of intellectuals, academics and journalists; their duty to be in planning, defining and executing scientific systems of promotional strategies, which will be sensitive enough to detect the objective presentation of the festival and providing a correct source of information to everybody concerned.

2 — Jerash Daily to be raised to the level of a highly professional paper, which should have clear policy and staff of well-paid specialists from the various local newspapers. The daily should be the main source of information concerning the festival.



Eva Peron at her dressing table in 1950.

Four decades after death, Eva Peron still stirs passion

By Ian Katz
The Associated Press

radio, stage and film actress

It is believed she was 25 when she met Peron, an ambitious army officer twice her age. They were married a year later, in 1945, and a year after that he was elected president, making his wife the most powerful woman in Argentina.

She became the champion of workers and the poor. Her Eva Peron Foundation built schools and hospitals, and bought gifts for needy children.

A man who is 55 years old today might remember the foundation giving him a soccer ball or a trip to the beach when he was a child," said Felix Luna, a leading historian. "So now he romanticises Eva and that whole period."

She was adored by the "reseatados," the have-nots who hate the rich. "Shall we burn down the Barrio Norte?" she would ask them at rallies, referring to a wealthy section of Buenos Aires.

In her autobiography, *The Reason For My Life*, which was required reading in primary schools, she wrote: "When I discovered that there were poor people and rich people in the world, the strange thing is that the existence of the poor didn't cause me as much pain as the knowledge that, at the same time, there were people who were rich."

"People see her as an idol, a respected figure," said Horacio Kaffel, a popcorn vendor in Ciudad Evita, a working class area 15 miles (25 kilometres) west of Buenos Aires named for her. "If they make a film that says she's a prostitute, well, people here can't take that."

Over a convivial lunch, Mr. Menem originally told Stone he would have access to government buildings, including the presidential offices. After a week of complaints, he decided the story "distorts historical truth." The government now says the American director can make the film in Argentina, but not inside any government buildings.

"It would be like letting Oliver Stone use the White House to say Kennedy was a homosexual," said Patricia Bullrich, a Peronist congresswoman. "What we're saying is, if you're going to insult my mother, do it in the street, not in my house."

What happens next is uncertain. Stone's agent, Steve Rivers, said Evita "belongs to Argentine mythology" along with the late tango singer Carlos Gardel and, "30 or 40 years from now," soccer star Diego Maradona.

"When someone becomes a myth," he said, "real history is not relevant."

A career in banking Russian style — guns, bombs and karate

By Sebastian Smith
Agence France Presse

armies trained in schools like Okinawa, one of the largest in the country.

At its training ground in a wood outside Moscow last week, the school put local bank security teams through their paces in a show of force to impress politicians and potential clients.

The oddly named Criminal Shoi (Criminal Show) was part paramilitary reunion, where sawn-off shotguns and camouflage jackets were de rigueur, and part school open day, complete with competitions, picnics and prize giving.

About 100 visitors spent the day strolling around

the shady clearing, stopping for snacks at the Law and Order Cafe and watching dozens of young men blast at pop-up targets, battle in hand-to-hand combat and demonstrate the various ways of shooting bank robbers.

In a display of grim thoroughness, the team from Unicom Bank first riddled the thief with paint bullets fired from two portholes in the side of its armoured bank van. A guard then got out of the van, shot the prone thief with his handgun, then handcuffed the body and put it in the back of the van.

Valeri Velichko, a security expert and presi-

dent of the Internal Security Veterans Club, said private guards were legally allowed to kill people threatening life and property."

But he complained that the current laws only allow the guards to use shotguns and pistols, not machine guns.

"Now the time is ripe to amend the law on private detective agencies," he said. "Everyone wants to survive, not to be killed," he added.

Mr. Asmolov said the private paramilitary schools were a useful way to counter Russia's giddy crime rate and put laid off

KGB and other highly trained policemen to work.

"The emergence of the private detective agency is the embryo of the future system," he said.

He said there was little danger of such lethal groups of men being put to the wrong purpose and said his department made rigorous yearly inspections. "That's too often," he said.

In two years, Okinawa has trained 600 people. The guards are attracted to the dangerous job by a salary that is between eight and 15 times higher than the Russian average, school officials said.

A rich academic outlook on Gulf crisis

The Gulf Crisis And Its Global Aftermath

(Edited By Gad Barzilai, Aharon Klieman and Gil Shidlo, Routledge publications, 1993).

This collection of articles is a welcome addition to the literature on the Gulf crisis and its repercussions. The editors aim to tackle the interactions between domestic politics and the international setting on the one hand, and the wider ramifications of the Gulf crisis on the other. The book is divided into five parts and includes sixteen articles covering the Middle East, Israel, the great powers and worldwide forces.

The first part on the Middle East examines the Arab system, Saddam Hussein, Saudi Arabia, the PLO and the refugees. Of particular interest is Efraim Karsh's article *Survival At All Costs: Saddam Hussein As A Crisis Manager*.

He rightly ascribes Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait to "strategic and economic realities", especially as the economic cost of Iraq's reconstruction after the Iraq-Iran War was estimated at \$20 billion. He investigates Saddam's "rule of fear", his strategy of divide et impera and goes on to explain why Saddam opted for war when he could have withdrawn his troops. He concludes that "caught between the hammer and the anvil", Saddam chose war believing that a prolonged confrontation might dilute the resolve of the multinational forces arrayed against him, thus elevating his status in the Arab World to that of Nasser. Karsh, however, disagrees with the American notion that Saddam remains the "lesser evil". While oblivious of the religious clout of Iran he concludes by advocating the "Shiite solution", which he admits to be short of constituting a "panacea". He goes on to condemn Saddam's personal rule and Shi'ite domination as an "assured prescription for domestic repression and external aggression in the future". So far, Karsh's prediction of an aggressive Iraq has been wrong and there are even unconfirmed reports that the Iraqi regime is conducting high-level clandestine negotiations with Israel. If this happens to be true a revisited Bagdad Pact embracing many regional countries including Israel and the present Iraqi regime against "fundamentalist" Iran, will no longer be an outlandish possibility.

In the second part Israel in the post-Gulf era is examined. Efraim Inbar's article *Strategic Consequences For Israel* examines the behaviour of the Israeli

government during the Gulf crisis in which Shamir's "low profile" policies successfully managed not to "rock the boat" of Middle Eastern politics. Inbar also examines Israel's changing strategic setting during the crisis largely resulting from the withering away of the bipolar international system and the heavy introduction of medium-range ballistic missiles into regional conflicts. Inbar rightly concludes that it was to Israel's supreme advantage that the "power of a formidable Arab opponent, Iraq, (was) significantly reduced", and that in spite of disastrous strategic miscalculations by the PLO the "marginalisation of the Palestinian issue will be very difficult."

The third and the forth parts investigate great power realignment and the ripples worldwide through examining the new world order, the American-Israeli relationship, Soviet policies during the Gulf crisis, European reactions, Third World arms exports to Iraq, petroleum prices and the media. In his article *Origins Of The New World Order*, Robert Tucker contrasts the Reagan Doctrine from the Truman Doctrine. The Reagan Doctrine assumed a unilateral role in "extending" freedom rather than "defending" it. In responding to Gulf crisis, the Bush administration reversed the outlook by its insistence on a multilateral response, thus placing principal emphasis on the maintenance of law and order. But unlike Woodrow Wilson who had believed in the power of public opinion and the role of the U.S. as an agency for change, Mr. Bush believed in actual force as an effective means. His crusade for a new world order, paradoxically, was about defending the status quo. The irony, however, was that the Gulf War was fought neither for extending democracy in its Western concept nor even for defending it.

Abraham Ben-Zvi's article *A Changing American-Israeli Relationship* deals with the changing dynamics of U.S.-Israeli relationship. In his explanation of the "special relationship" paradigm, he quotes William Quandt who has ascribed this phenomenon to, among other things, the "congruence of values between the two nations... in a way that has not parallel on the Arab side." Ben-Zvi identifies the 1982 Lebanon War, the abortive 1988 Shultz peace initiative and the intifada as the "triggering events" which contributed to the erosion of U.S.-Israeli relationship. This erosion, he adds, was further exacerbated by the reduction of the importance of Israel as a strategic asset to the U.S.

following structural changes in the global international system. Additionally, the Gulf War provided the impetus for "exposing", "amplifying" and even "accelerating" this erosion. Indeed in this new complex of strategic, economic and political conditions, Ben-Zvi rightly predicts an "increasingly assertive and ambitious American posture" vis-a-vis Israel.

Five parts assess future prospects for peace. In their joint article *Conflict Resolution Under The Veil Of Uncertainty: The Middle East*, Gad Barzilai and Gideon Doron point out the regional structural changes that have taken place, namely American hegemony and the potential for an American-led regional alliance. They also study structural relations between the local actors and between them and the superpowers. Barzilai and Doron conclude the book by stressing the importance of America's stabilising hegemonic role and the necessity of improving the micro-level conditions of the region through "moderate processes" of democratisation, secularisation, ...etc.

Evidently, the richness of this work stems from the wide academic spectrum to which its contributors belong. They are regional historians, war specialists, political scientists, public policy experts, ... etc. Additionally, the articles are presented in a lucid manner which enables the general reader to grasp many of the intricate realities underlying the various complicated issues investigated. However, the book occasionally lacks a watertight thematic framework which ensures logical progression from one article to another.

For example part four *Ripples Worldwide* deal with pre-war issues such as Third World armament to Iraq and the non far-reaching issue of the media during the crisis. Needless to say, some contributors have relied heavily on secondary sources at the expense of in-depth analysis. Bruce Maddy-Weitzman's narrative article *Continuity And Change In The Inter-Arab System* unduly dwells on newspaper articles, public interviews and official radio broadcasts. Finally, due to the fact that the bulk of the contributors are Israelis, the book comes across in many respects as a projection of an Israeli view on the issues tackled, albeit an academic one.

Lu'ayy Minwir Al Rimeswi

The all-in-one swindle

By Jean-Claude Elias

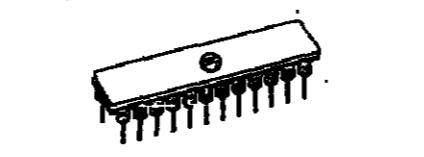
Our suppliers of information technology want us to believe that the personal computer (PC) has become a consumer product. Though partly true, the complexity of the software and the enormous variety of problems a PC user may encounter while working belie this statement. Nevertheless, the PC is nowadays marketed as such, i.e. as a consumer product.

One of the many ruses manufacturers resort to in order to promote their goods is the "all-in-one" trick. From pens that have a built-in watch, a ruler and an electronic game to radio sets with an integrated flashlight, a calculator and a coffee percolator, all are made to tempt the buyer into the magic of the multi-purpose. Not only does the customer forget that he is actually paying for all the devices as if bought separately, but he also has to settle for poor quality components.

If the above is more or less acceptable for pens or radios, it should not be even considered when looking for a PC or a PC-related product. An American company has recently launched a portable fax machine that also serves as a photocopier, a document scanner and fax-Modem. Four machines in one.

To be true, technically speaking, it must be said that the above four units do have something in common — they all use a scanning system. However, for quality work, they must all have different specifications. Resolution more particularly must be as high as

chip talk



possible for a good scanner, while medium resolution would do for a fax system. Somewhere on the road to perfection, obviously, there is a flagrant compromise.

Audiophiles reject anything less than a discrete hi-fi system where each piece is separated: The amplifier, the cassette deck, the CD player, the radio tuner, the speakers, etc. For the ultimate in music purity, the most demanding even look for separated power amplifiers and control pre-amplifiers.

If quality is the main reason for having independent units, practicality and maintenance are important as well. The ergonomics of a fax machine and a PC scanner are not the same. How do you combine them and keep them pleasant, easy to manipulate? Repairing modular units is easier and less expensive than integrated ones. Transporting them too.

Manufacturers can be excused for designing and marketing all-in-one small, amusing gadgets, not computer related units.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shaqair

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

* During World War I two soldiers met. Both were Australians. Each was 19 years old. They had caught the same pulmonary disease. Their name was Franz Richter.

★ ★ ★ ★

* An American city celebrates the Larva Festival during which the natives colour their faces as if they were worms. A race competition is held among them to select the fastest "larva".

★ ★ ★ ★

* In Jeffersonville, Indiana, there is a graveyard specifically erected to contain the U.S.A. flags.

★ ★ ★ ★

* Last year a South Korean citizen shook hands with not less than 25,000 persons within eight hours.

★ ★ ★ ★

* Divorce which once had been considered taboo in China since the eighties apparently increased to reach one million cases in 1993 or the treble number in 1991. Statistics show that one out of five marriages presently ends in divorce as a result of social change in this country. It is worthy noting that 20 per cent of the husbands in Beijing beat their wives.

★ ★ ★ ★

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

How about eating out tonight?

Ma ra'yka fee tawwood al-izam karj al-bayt haqqiyya?

— That sounds good. Fikra tayyeba.

— Shall we go to the Red Rose Restaurant?

Atashab al-izam al-Warda al-Hamra?

— Yes, but it is so expensive and crowded.

Ne'am walakunha ghalib jiddan wanwadshim.

— It is a romantic restaurant, isn't it?

Imashbu mat'am sha'ir, aslaysa kanzlik?

— Then let's go for lunch. Ezzan ilwazeb al-ghadba.

— Do you serve snacks?

Hal tokaddimmoon wajabat khaft?

— Yes, you can have any of your assorted sandwiches.

Na'am, yomkinha an tatawwal ayy shay min shata'ha min al-sutuwa?

— Please bring me the menu.

Min fadlik sh'dir lee qa'mat al-ta'as.

— What's the price of the regular meal today?

Ma dhamma al-wajeb al-sudaya haqqiyya?

— About 5 dinars excluding refreshments and service.

Hawali khamset dananeer bidoon al-murattibat wal-khawas.

★ ★ ★ ★

TIME FOR FUN

* A man saw a young lady washing a cat in the sea-water. Advising her, he said: "I'm afraid the cat would die of washing." But the woman didn't believe in what he said. A few hours later the man found the cat lying dead.

Blaming the lady for not listening to his advice, the kind-hearted man said: "Didn't I tell you that washing would cause death to the animal?"

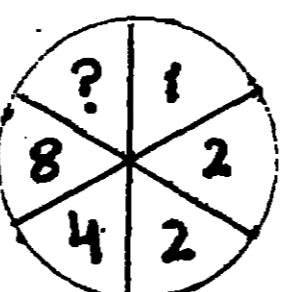
"He didn't die of washing but he died while wringing it!" the woman promptly answered.

* A spinster once used to say: "I'll get married to nobody else but to a daring man. A friend of hers then enquired "Good heavens! Who would ever dare to ask your hand for marriage?"

* Bernard Shaw was complaining about his miserable marriage but he often used to say: "Marriage is necessary for man. If a man succeeded in finding a virtuous woman, he would live happily. If he, on the other hand, was bound to marry a wicked woman, he would become a philosopher like me!"

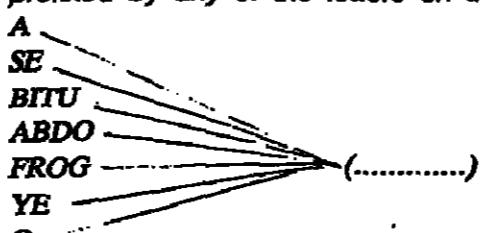
PUZZLES

(A) Insert the missing number:



★ ★ ★ ★

(B) Insert the word in the brackets that can be prefixed by any of the letters on the left:



Exchanging stamps

To the Editor:

I am a 16-year-old girl from Poland interested in exchanging stamps and postcards.

I could write in French, Spanish, Russian and Polish to those interested. My interest in stamps varies from culture, to history, geography, sports, fauna and flora.

Andre Novak
93-193 LODZ
Ul. Leczycka 32/3
Poland.

In Shakespeare's garden

By E. Yaghi

How are the Iraqi people recovering three and a half years after the Gulf War? Engineers diligently rebuild the country night and day repairing bombed out bridges, warehouses, ministerial compounds and roads. At first glance, in the area where Western civilisation first began, between the Tigris and Euphrates, an aura of normalcy, as far as structures go, prevails. Yet, this is only superficial, for with the continuance of the sanctions, life becomes increasingly more difficult for the majority of civilians who experienced the worst bombing since World War II.

There is a small plot of land where Shakespeare's flowers bloom and grow, overshadowed by poverty, despair, hunger and the cries of innocent children whose protests fill the stale air and daily, little bodies are carted off to burial because small frames can not withstand starvation and lack of medicine.

One senior UNICEF official warned: "It's not as bad as Ethiopia, but almost as bad. Iraq has never suffered from severe malnutrition before, but now it is evident in many of the young children who commonly have swollen hands, feet and distended bellies."

Abdul Jabar is an English teacher who when a student, wanted one day to have a garden containing all the flowers that he had read about in Shakespeare's plays and poems. After he married, he bought a small plot of land and built a comfy three room home, where he cultivated a garden dedicated to Shakespeare's ingenious writings, in which among other plants, roses and lilies grow.

Abdul Jabar has a wife and four daughters, one of whom is married. Since he retired, his government pension does not meet the needs of his family. His daughters remaining at home are all teenagers in school and require some kind of pocket money. Therefore, every afternoon, the former English teacher goes to the streets of Baghdad where he stands patiently by his portable table which carries used household equipment sold to him by those who need the money in order to eat.

Whatever the weather, in the cold of winter which chills to the bone or the heat of summer when the merciless sun bakes the earth to a dry crust, the English teacher waits for a customer to purchase something so that his family can manage to sustain themselves. As he stood one day, he remembered those pre-war times when he was happy with his family. Then his thoughts drifted back to home, to his aged mother with diabetes and how medicine for treatment is nearly impossible to procure. He envisioned his wife cooking meager staples and scrubbing down the white tile in their kitchen where she looks out on Shakespeare's garden, the only bright picture in sight. He wondered if his youngest daughter was taking care of the chicken that her dad raised during the Gulf War for at this time, one egg is almost equal to the monthly salary of a lecturer at a university. As for the severely malnourished babies, who can afford a tin of powdered milk which sells for over \$80 or a small bag of coffee which costs around \$75 or more while a small can of bologna is about \$36?

Not too far away from the teacher's home is the Ameriya bomb shelter where a pinpoint bomb blasted hundreds of people to their deaths. Though 324 bodies were removed, some bodies are still trapped inside. One of Abdul Jabar's fellow teachers lost all his family the night of the shelter's destruction.

Abdul Jabar fondly looked at his bouquet of flowers growing in Shakespeare's garden and hoped that soon the sanctions would be lifted and that the Iraqi people who had suffered enough would have a better future to look forward to and that once again young Iraqis would be able to laugh and play like children the world over.

Some of the Iraqi elite still attend fashion shows where the latest styles are modelled in front of a silent glazing crowd but clothes are very expensive and few can afford the price of a new dress or suit and regardless of how rich or poor anyone is, no one laughs as much as they used to or can ever forget the 40 days of Purgatory they suffered through.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Aug. 18

7:15 Battlestar Galactica

The human race is to be destroyed by the cyclones but Adama and son Apollo gather the survivors to escape to Earth.

8:30 Heart of Courage

Exploring ordinary people who saw children in danger, and acted without hesitation to save them from certain death.

9:10 Murder She Wrote

Appointment in Athens

Jessica helps the British intelligent men who are after a group dealing with smuggled weapons, and who had kidnapped one of their men.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Movie Of The Week

Friday, Aug. 19

9:10 E.N.G.

False Step

A father avenges the murder of his 14-year-old daughter. The camera catches that

10:00 News in English

10:20 Emilie

Emilie is torn between two marriage proposals.

11:10 Dad's Army

The old recruits help bring down to earth a priest, who is caught by a flying balloon.

Saturday, Aug. 20

8:30 Movies, Games And Videos

9:30 The Campbells

Mirrors Of The Soul

Dr. James Campbell will soon find out how new medicines would compare to the old ones, when he finds himself among an American Indian tribe.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film

Sunday, Aug. 21

8:30 Step By Step

Read All About It

When it comes to earning money, Frank believes

that the man in the house should be the one who earns the most.

9:10 Quantum Leap

Maybe Baby

It's a long journey for a little girl to find her real mother. Luckily Sam is her saviour and companion.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Snow River — The McGregor Saga

The Race

It's Australia, during the 19th century. A young man, Luke, and his mother are back from America to fight for their rights to their land, taken over by a greedy uncle.

Monday, Aug. 22

8:30 Home Free

9:10 Galactic Odyssey

10:00 News In English

10:20 Matrix

11:10 No Job For A Lady

Jane seeks the help of her Labour colleague to help an Asian student to stay in Britain.

Tuesday, Aug. 23

8:30 Hollywood Stuntmakers

9:10 The Commish

10:00 News In English

10:20 Rose Against The Odds

Wednesday, Aug. 24

8:30 Bob

9:10 The Nature Of Things

10:00 News In English

10:20 The Nanny

The Gym Teacher

The Nanny saves Maggie's neck when she sits for a 'gym' exam.

11:10 Poldark

A fierce confrontation between Ross and George house.

Susan Sarandon — mother, activist, actress and prosecutor Marcia Clark?

By Douglas J. Rowe
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Susan Sarandon already has the reputation as someone who could easily pass a current events quiz. So it's not surprising that the conversation during a recent interview eventually turned to one of the day's biggest stories.

She wondered whether O.J. Simpson can get a fair murder trial, then said several people have commented that the prosecutor, Marcia Clark, resembles her.

Ah, the casting has begun for the inevitable movie.

Not that Sarandon needs the role. She continually gets meaty parts and anyway, the role she likes most is mother.

While 9-year-old daughter Eva digs into a heap of ice cream capped with jimmies, Sarandon curls up in the corner of a sofa in a Manhattan hotel suite, wearing a white, flowered summer dress, and she explains how she ensures that her family's life suffers no disruptions by any movie she makes.

When director Joel Schumacher approached her about playing Reggie Love, the almost-but-not-quite-in-over-her-head lawyer in *The Client*, Sarandon made sure filming was scheduled for summer, while school's out, Schumacher promised a nice house and a good time for Sarandon and her children: 5-year-old Jack Henry and 2-year-old Miles — her kids by live-in lover Tim Robbins — as well as Eva.



Susan Sarandon

whose father is Italian director Franco Amurri.

Plus, her agents were saying: "Are you crazy? It's Grisham. Take it. Take it it's going to make millions and millions of dollars."

Certainly, John Grisham's potboiling novels have been adapted into box-office successes, if not critical ones. Which caused Sarandon to say, laughing:

"It turns out to be the only Grisham that is not too successful it will be a complete humiliation."

The 47-year-old red-haired gamine, who starred in *Atlantic City*, *Bull Durham*, *Thelma And Louise* (and let's not forget *The Rocky Horror*

Picture Show and *Pretty Baby*), needn't worry.

Even though she's taken substantial time off in recent years, usually to have babies and rear her children, she's always managed to find a way back, she said.

"There're so few scripts that even come close to being as interesting as my kids. Having been in this business 20-some years: Been there, done that. I've also lived my life pretty hard. So there's not too many surprises in certain areas. I don't feel like I'm missing out on anything, so I'm very happy to stay home and explore family life."

Consequently, Sarandon, who has been nomin-

ated three times for the Best-Accress Academy Award, can eschew the Hollywood industrial complex by living in New York and risk contempt by speaking out on issues.

Still, it's cost her, she said.

"Absolutely, I think you've got to pay the price, you know. No pain, no gain — all those clichés that used to be written on your jeans somewhere in the '60s."

"I've been trying to impress upon my kids that life is just about making mistakes, that, you know, that's the process of learning what you want, who you are, going in whatever direction," said Sarandon, herself the eldest of nine children raised in New York City, then New Jersey.

"I hope they make them faster than I made mine, but making mistakes is not only OK, it's necessary. And I made a lot of mistakes — sometimes just bad calls in judgment or choices, or being in the wrong place at the wrong time, both on and off screen."

"I saw myself as a work in progress. So I feel very comfortable with where I am, because I've earned my faith, my place, my happiness, my life, through a process of elimination."

That explains, in part, why she's opted to portray characters who transcend their limitations while suffering.

"Lately, I like to play people that I like and that I admire, because in spite of their frailties, they take a chance, of some kind. It

can be as small as leaving your boyfriend and moving to a different apartment as in *White Palace* or it can be as obvious as bucking the medical establishment in *Lorenzo's Oil*.

But they're all people who come up against a moment when they have to act one way or another, and they decide to become a protagonist in their own lives.

"And that's interesting to me," she said. "I'm not interested in playing people who know at the beginning of the movie that they're heroes."

"People say, 'you play so many strong, independent women'" — they never feel like strong, independent women inside.

To me, every inch of the way it's costing them something, "till they get to the point where they're perceived as strong, independent women. Even in *Thelma And Louise*, her violent act brings with it a kind of morality; and from that point on I think that she's doomed."

"She's coming to terms with a lot of things. The defiant act is done, I felt, almost inadvertently."

It all began back at Catholic University in Washington, D.C., in the mid-1960s when Susan Abigail Tomalin switched from a major in English and philosophy to theatre arts after meeting an aspiring actor named Chris Sarandon. The two married in 1967 (and later divorced) and moved to New York.

Susan signed with a model agency and quickly landed her first movie role in 1970s Joe, while attending an audition with her



Actress Susan Sarandon in a scene from the film *The Client*

husband.

Because Sarandon regularly gets good roles, the question arises whether the notion that there's a dearth of good parts for women is overblown.

"And as long as you have leading men who insist upon casting 20-year-olds when they're in their 50s, I suppose that doesn't help the cause, either."

Speaking of "causes," that brings up something that preoccupies her, too. "I take personally a lot of things that a lot of people don't concern themselves with," she said.

Among those things: first amendment infringements (for which she fights through the Centre For Constitutional Rights), the environment, AIDS and homelessness.

"My kids ask questions and I want to be able to tell them this is the way the government works," she said, explaining that her children attend a Quaker school.

After she and Robbins criticised the U.S. government at the 1993 Oscar ceremony for not admitting 266 Haitians infected with HIV, she got some "really hateful, racist,

homophobic mail, which taught me the level of ignorance on certain issues, that I had underestimated the need for education on certain subjects."

Despite being called an obscene and spat upon for her views, Sarandon intends to keep speaking out.

"I think I'm very careful," she said. "I'm very selective in what I do. I'm thoughtful about it beforehand. I don't just show up and do things and say things in some kind of liberal, knee-jerk reaction to some sentimental issue — because I know I could not only hurt myself and my family, but I can void my potential power in the future to affect anything politically."

I should be no mystery why she gets politically involved, she ventured. "I think it's ironic that the press says to me, 'why do you do this?' and I say, 'because you won't be there unless there's one or two of us (celebrities) out there. ... It makes a good picture, that's why I'm out there. That's just the way it works."

Actress' career blossoms on both sides of the Atlantic

By Bob Thomas
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — For three decades, Joan Plowright remained in the shadow of her husband, the drama titan Sir Laurence Olivier, raising their children, appearing with him in the theatre nursing him in his last painful years.

Now Plowright is one of the movie world's busiest actresses, finding rich roles on both sides of the Atlantic. The latest is the imperious Irish dowager in *Widow's Peak*, which has been delighting audiences and earning tidy sums in a limited release across the country.

Like *Enchanted April*, *Four Weddings And A Funeral* and other charmers from abroad, it is likely to enjoy a long life among discriminating audiences.

The actress was asked why such films seem to be made in Europe and not here.

"It's the writer," she explained. "I think Europeans are more interested in the script to begin with, rather than a star vehicle for a certain performer. There is a passion about the story and the way it's written, and then you cast."

"Very often in America, because the stars are much bigger than those in Europe, they have to go to a formula. There are probably many wonderful actors in America who would be delighted to do the kind of scripts you're talking about. But they would have to take half the money, perhaps a third. Maybe their agents won't let them."

Plowright, 64, was interviewed at the Westwood Marquis Hotel, a few steps from campus of the University of California at Los Angeles. She and Olivier often stayed



Actress Joan Plowright, shown *Peak*, is finding rich roles on a scene from the *Widow's* both sides of the Atlantic.

there when their son, Richard, was studying at UCLA. Her visits have been frequent because of offers from Hollywood producers.

"I think I owe my time in Hollywood to Laurence Kasdan, who brought me over to do *I Love You To Death*," she said. (She played an American who helped daughter Tracy Ullman plot son-in-law Kevin Kline's death.)

"From there it kind of snowballed. Barry Levinson, who was a friend, was looking for Eva in *Avalon*, and I moved into that. And then it's gone on from there," she said.

The Hollywood films

range from *The Last Action Hero* with Arnold Schwarzenegger to *Dennis The Menace*. She also has been busy in television, including a pilot for *Driving Miss Daisy*.

Plowright seems able to slide gracefully from her own English accent to American or Irish. She has help from a dialogue coach on the set, and her

many visits to these shores have accustomed her to American rhythms.

Her accent for *Widow's Peak* was no problem — "the Irish being so near, and because we have a lot of expatriate Irish in London. ... Once you move over to Ireland and live among them, it does come quite easily. And in our drama schools in England, we are taught those accents as part of our craft."

The daughter of a Southwark newspaper editor, Plowright studied at the Old Vic Theatre School and soon was playing major roles in the London Theatre. Her life changed when she was cast in *John Osborne's The Entertainer*, which starred Laurence Olivier. A year later they married.

The actress repeated her role in the film version of *The Entertainer*, but most of their early career was devoted to the theatre, often appearing opposite her husband.

"We wanted to be together, and we were bringing up a family," she said.

By Peter Mackler
Agence France Presse

WASHINGTON — In the beginning, before the peace and love, there was mud and stench. And the Woodstock generation saw the mud and the stench, and the peace and the love, and said: "Let there be hype."

With Americans celebrating the 25th anniversary of the fabled Woodstock rock concert, details of what really happened on that New York state farm where 400,000 hippies wallowed in filth, drugs and music are hazy.

Reams of newspaper stories, books, records and a masterful film have turned the three-day event into an epiphany moment, the crowning achievement of the free-wheeling 1960s and its love-generation apostles.

It's been likened to a cross between an anti-war protest and the Sermon on the Mount, complete with a soothing loudspeaker voice wafting over the sloping meadows urging all to love thy neighbour and beware of bad acid.

Never mind the myths. No, my children, folk icon Bob Dylan was not at the Aug. 15-17, 1969 extravaganza, nor were the Rolling Stones. Joni Mitchell, who composed the much-sung "Woodstock" anthem was not there.

Did Plowright and Olivier try to dissuade them? "We did try," Plowright smiled. "It's very difficult for children of actors, because the people you have around the house are in the profession, and to your children they are more interesting and exciting."

"Children should be given the key to unlock any door and not just think that this profession is the only one in the world. But actors do talk to children as people. Doctors and lawyers and those kinds of people treat them as children. And so the children think, 'I like to be among those people (actors).'"

"It's like the last one was a complete accident," said Stephen Sills, of Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young who sang at the first Woodstock and will sing at the second. "It was

Woodstock: Peace, love, mud and hype

dirty and yucky, and there was magic in the air."

Indeed those who were there (really there), remember that for all its promise and pageant the "Woodstock Music and Art Fair: An Aquarian Exposition" started out as well, the pits.

The rain started the night before and stayed in spurts until the last day Sunday. What little food was available from local stores quickly ran out and the kids were reduced to plundering the corn field as love thy neighbour and beware of bad acid.

Reams of newspaper stories, books, records and a masterful film have turned the three-day event into an epiphany moment, the crowning achievement of the free-wheeling 1960s and its love-generation apostles.

For their part, the famished throng realised that if they could just stick it out, they could give the world a lesson in the communal harmony that was a byword of the '60s.

So people started sharing their tents and supplies. Some banded together to fashion makeshift lodgings in the woods out of canvass and straw: Others turned their minivans into ad hoc rooming houses.

The Hog Farm commune, led by a folksy big-batted character called Wavy Gravy, helped youths experience bad trips on drugs. Other groups also set up soup kitchens or roamed the farm doing out free rice, beans, vegetable stew, potato chips and granola.

The aura of invincibility was just as thick as the naivete. "Just love everybody around you and clean up a little bit of garbage on the way out



Three people sit in the mud and Rains turned the concert grounds into a field of mud (AFP photo)

Cell 'suicide' may be key to new cancer drugs

By Ben Hirschler
Reuter

LONDON — The failure of cancer cells to "commit suicide" like normal cells in the body may hold the key to a new generation of anti-cancer drugs, British researchers believe.

Traditionally, scientists have viewed cancer as a disease caused by uncontrolled cell division, leading to tumours. But Dr. Gerard Evan and his colleagues at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund (ICRF) charity are convinced this is only half the story.

Their discovery of a

gene, called C-MYC, which not only tells cells to divide but at the same time primes them for death, suggests another cause of cancer may be cells' failure to die in time. The gene appears to malfunction in tumours.

"It looks like many tumours — perhaps most tumours, perhaps all tumours — have lost the ability to commit suicide. They are simply not dying like they should," Dr. Evan said in an interview.

Timely cell death is vital to health. Every hour one billion cells self-destruct as the human body re-

places and repairs ageing tissue.

Correcting tumour cells' defective mechanism of programmed cell death, or apoptosis, which occurs naturally in normal cells, opens a new avenue in the fight against cancer.

"This is a very different approach to cancer. It's taking the whole business of what cancer is apart and rethinking it," Dr. Evan said.

The ICRF has now joined forces with biotechnology company Apoptosis Technology, of Cambridge, Massachusetts, to develop new drugs de-

signed to regulate cell death.

Screening for drug candidates is underway and the first could enter clinical trials in five to ten years, Dr. Evan said.

The new "cell suicide" drugs should have big advantages over current cancer chemotherapies which target rapidly proliferating tumour cells but also hit normal fast-growing ones, causing the well-known side effects of nausea, baldness and damage to the immune system.

The key to developing such drugs lies in identifying

the biochemical pathway which leads to cell suicide — and finding ways of correcting it when it goes wrong.

Dr. Evan's crucial discovery is that normal cells survive and go on dividing only because of the presence of chemical signals involved as a hormone in the blood, an insulin-like growth factor (IGF-1). He found tumour cells were staying alive because they thought they were receiving IGF-1, when in fact they were not.

This discovery gives pharmacologists a chance to intervene by finding chemicals that mimic or disrupt the signal given by

IGF-1 and other possible "survival factors."

The end result could be drugs with a highly specific ability to block off survival pathways. There may be numerous signals involved in various cancers, suggesting different "cell suicide" drugs to those used in cancer — designed to promote cell survival pathways rather than shut them down.

"It's a difference. But once you get hold of the levers and pulleys with drugs you can begin to manipulate the molecular mechanism at will," said Dr. Evan.

In Alzheimer's, for ex-

ample, scientists believe that the degeneration of nerve cells in the brain may be due, at least in part, to excessive cell suicide.

Treatments for these conditions would, in effect, be mirror-image drugs to those used in cancer — designed to promote cell survival pathways rather than shut them down.

"It's a difference. But once you get hold of the levers and pulleys with drugs you can begin to manipulate the molecular mechanism at will," said Dr. Evan.

Father Jaouen — the saviour of drug-addicts

Father Jaouen is a Jesuit. His mission-land was the street with its young delinquents, the prison and the hostel for former prisoners. Now, he sails across the Atlantic on a three-masted boat. With him, they are about twenty drug-addicts who, caught up in the solidarity effort demanded by life at sea, leave off narcotics.

By Jean-Marc Dupuis

PARIS — "With the Pole Star, you always know where you are at sea. With 'love one another', you sail around the world." It is not very complicated. That is how Father Jaouen thinks. As a real Breton, he is familiar with the sea and with the Pole Star. So, for the last 25 years or so, he has been taking young people who have turned out badly in life, on board his three-masted boat, with former prisoners to begin with, and then young drop-outs who have been thrown out of school, and then drug-addicts.

They do not really set off on a world tour, but, in four or five months of sailing, from Brest in Brittany to the French West Indies and back, they have

time to bring about a revolution in themselves. They set off as drug-addicts and come back free. On board, there is obviously no dope, no alcohol, no psychiatrist either, no mass and no substitution drugs. Just girls and boys, young adults who have become infantilised in their addiction, a voluntary crew and Captain Jaouen.

The only remedies are life at sea, task-sharing and talking. Indeed, a lot of talking goes on, on board the Bel Espoir and the Rara Avis. "The boat is a marvellous tool for communication." Yes, but what about the terrific dependence on drugs?

"Whether they suffer from withdrawal or not, I don't want to know. When we cast off from Brest, they are ill for three or

four days and live like rats, without moving. Then comes the sun and that's when they no longer speak about their need for drugs and start to get back into shape physically."

To the blazes with endless therapy, swelling and paralysing aid. "Let us stop lamenting about the fate of drug-addicts and taking care of them. It is up to them to take charge of themselves. They know it. The only thing that I can do for them is to give them a good 'kick in the arse' when needed!" And it works. Love one another is not a load of nonsense.

The captain's fits of shouting are legendary. His first order, "bloody well get on with being happy" is not airy-fairy. One does not speak like at a Sunday tea-party when one is on board ship, and even less so in prison.

Before going to sea with drug-addicts, Father Jaouen had been the prison chaplain at Fresnes in the minors' section, for ten years. He had ended up there by force of circumstances, so as not to let down the young delinquents whom he knew. In Fresnes, he had done good work, but it was not enough for him as the real problem, and he was all

too aware of it, was when they come out of prison and people find themselves in the street without anybody or anything.

So, by dint of perseverance, Father Jaouen succeeded in having a place created for the purpose of the social reintegration of former prisoners. This was the Foyer Des Epinettes which has a hundred and ten rooms for its residents, a restaurant and ... a night-club. The last two are open to the public. He ran them for ten years without there ever being a brawl.

It was at this time that he thought about getting a boat for the young people in his hostel. He bought a second-hand three-mast boat which he renamed "Bel Espoir" (Fine Hope). In 1971 the minister of youth and sports asked him to do something to help drug-addicts.

This is how his Atlantic crossings began. Famous sailors consider him as one of them. Eric Tabarly, Olivier de Kersauzon, Arnaud Loïc Peyron are his friends.

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Carlos' lawyers charge kidnap, say he will not reveal secrets

PARIS (Agencies) — Defense lawyers for Ulich Ramirez Sanchez or Carlos the Jackal said Wednesday they would challenge the legality of their client's extradition to France, accusing French agents of kidnapping him.

"We have held discussions elements of the complaint that we intend filing for his kidnapping," lawyer Mourad Ousseid said after he and fellow defense lawyer Jacques Verges met with Carlos at La Santa prison in Paris.

Speaking a day after Carlos was arraigned on charges of murder in connection with a 1982 bombing in Paris, Mr. Verges said he did not believe Carlos would reveal the secrets learned in 20 years of international extremism.

"I don't think he will go into any details," Mr. Verges said. "He is not an informer and has nothing but contempt for those who betray and sell out."

Carlos was arrested by Sudanese officials on Sunday and handed over to French counter-intelligence agents who flew him out to Paris on Monday.

Outlining the basis for his legal challenge to the procedure, Mr. Verges said: "Carlos was not subject to an extradition, in other words his arrest was not asked for by French justice through diplomatic channels and confirmed by a court decision in Sudan."

"He was kidnapped following an exchange of letters between the French and the Sudanese interior ministers," he added.

Mr. Ousseid accused the authorities in Sudan of acting like mafia turncoats who agree to collaborate with police in return for immunity from prosecution.

"Sudan was caught red-handed as a terrorist state," and like mafia informers,

over an alleged deal with Iran for the release of other hostages in Beirut.

Both France and Sudan have denied allegations of a deal. French Interior Minister Charles Piau reiterated Wednesday that there had been "no quid pro quo" and foreign ministry spokesman Richard Duque said France's relations with Sudan remain characterized "by prudence."

Mr. Verges said that Carlos was very relaxed during their meeting in the maximum security block at the Paris prison.

"We spoke about films, economic policy, literature and a thousand other things, he's a very cultivated man, very disciplined."

Nevertheless, the left-wing daily *Liberation* said on Wednesday that Sudan's cooperation may be linked to Paris' bid to head off a deepening crisis in Algeria.

It said France could want to cultivate ties with Sudan's Muslim leaders, hoping for help in mediating with Algeria's outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

Allegation of dubious deals with extremist groups and rogue governments are nothing new in France.

Earlier this year, Paris declined to hand over two suspected Iranian killers to Switzerland, despite an extradition request.

Mr. Verges, dampening hopes that Carlos might give away secrets of state backing for guerrillas, indicated that he would not betray his friends.

Asked whether Carlos would plead that he had not acted alone during his criminal career, Mr. Verges answered: "Carlos will not behave like the Sudanese authorities who sold a guest and betrayed him. He will justify his action."

Jordan and Israel conclude talks

(Continued from page 1) of a "lasting, honourable peace agreement."

On that count, Jordanian and Israeli negotiators reminded the press and through the public, that their detailed negotiations cannot provide breakthroughs everyday.

But they were also careful to publicly stress their commitment to pressing ahead with their negotiations until they have laid down the foundations for full peace, a foundation that both sides say needs to be built by the leaders of the two countries before any final breakthrough is announced.

"Resolution of the difficult issues must be satisfactory and just to both sides because if one side is happy and the other is not, then it is not going to work," chief Israeli negotiator Elyakim Rubenstein told Jordanian reporters Wednesday.

"We are working based on this assumption," he said.

According to Jordanian delegation sources, the Israeli "assumption" may be leading the Israeli side to believe that Jordan is working towards "deals" rather than a comprehensive solution of outstanding problems, especially those over security, water and boundaries.

Mr. Rubenstein told Jordanian reporters that his team on water was working diligently to "make a deal" that will address both the water sharing issue and "augmenting" these talks with ways of ensuring "availability of additional water."

"We are going to work on the right allocation of both sides, but it is not enough," Mr. Rubenstein said.

"Both countries need more than the God-given situation and we wish to develop more," he added. "We have to make a deal. We will work together and we will find it. I

am very optimistic."

But Jordanian sources told the *Jordan Times* that the Israeli "stalling" tactic continues to dominate these negotiations and that they believe that the water issue will only be completely resolved by a political decision of the leadership, a sentiment that Mr. Rubenstein appeared to echo in his short press meeting with Jordanian press.

Speaking about the progress made in the negotiations on borders, Ambassador Rubenstein said that his country suggested that all technical meetings on this issue become continuous, which he said "is a very good omen" for a resolution of this problem.

But while those committees will plod on in their technical negotiations, "finality" there will be what he called a "political level" decision to resolve the problem completely.

Mr. Rubenstein said that the Jordanian side had given an "impressive" presentation on the territory occupied by Israel.

Marwan Muasher, a spokesperson of the Jordanian delegation, told reporters that the Kingdom's team had given "a detailed presentation of the Jordanian position on boundaries including the areas of these territories and their location."

On Wednesday, the Israeli side presented part of its counterproposal, which along with the Jordanian one, according to Mr. Rubenstein, "will form the basis for further negotiations."

On this issue, Mr. Rubenstein said he was sure that "we will find a way" to resolve the boundaries issue.

But as the Jordanian negotiators were getting bogged down in the details of other detailed and technical negotiations.

On Wednesday, the Israeli side presented part of its counterproposal, which along with the Jordanian one, according to Mr. Rubenstein, "will form the basis for further negotiations."

"This idea is not even on the table, we rejected it outright," the source told the *Jordan Times*.

Dr. Muasher said negotiations on flights by Royal Jordanian across Israeli airspace were stuck Wednesday over the altitude at which the planes should fly.

King: No Jerusalem visit anytime soon

(Continued from page 1)

task here is to clarify the exact bodies of law that must be adhered to within this very context.

Moreover, sub-contracts undertaken primarily as a means whereby civil servants with decision-making powers are compensated in return for services rendered must be forbidden.

Article three concerns agents and consultants. In this respect parties to business transactions must take reasonable measures, within their own respective terms of reference, to ensure that agents, middlemen and consultants are fairly paid in return for legitimate services rendered. Such sums, however, must not be paid in contravention of such a criterion. Parties concerned must desist from appointing agents, middlemen, and consultants with a view to gaining access to some privileged information. Agents, middlemen, and consultants must in turn submit information to the concerned authorities highlighting the firms they represent and the commissions obtained in return for services rendered.

4. Measures must be taken to ensure that commissions, or any other form of reward, shall not exceed what is deemed fair in terms of compensation for legitimate services rendered. Such sums, however, must not be paid in contravention of such a criterion. Parties concerned must desist from appointing agents, middlemen, and consultants with a view to gaining access to some privileged information. Agents, middlemen, and consultants must in turn submit information to the concerned authorities highlighting the firms they represent and the commissions obtained in return for services rendered.

5. Consultants and middlemen must provide the concerned authority with any relevant information pertaining to the names of the firms or persons they represent, and the amounts of the commissions that are due as a result.

6. Parties shall keep proper records, apply the most up-to-date accounting procedures, and register all transactions with precision, accuracy and honesty. Records must always be ready for inspection wherever required by the concerned authorities.

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Financial Jordan Times
Markets in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

Current	New York Date 16/8/94	Tokyo Date 17/8/94
Sterling Pound	1.5395	1.5375
Deutsche Mark	1.5615	1.5630
Swiss Franc	1.3114	1.3140
French Franc	5.3540	5.3478**
Japanese Yen	100.49	100.85
European Currency Unit	1.2155	1.2192**

** End of STG

** European Opening at 8:00 a.m. GMT

Eurocurrency Interest Rates Date: 17/8/1994

Current	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.50	4.68	5.00	5.56
Sterling Pound	4.93	5.43	5.87	6.82
Deutsche Mark	4.68	4.75	4.81	5.06
Swiss Franc	3.93	4.12	4.31	4.45
French Franc	5.25	5.43	5.68	6.06
Japanese Yen	1.93	2.12	2.12	2.43
European Currency Unit	5.81	5.87	6.12	6.12

Interest rate costs for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 17/8/1994

Current	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6960	0.6980
Sterling Pound	1.0685	1.0738
Deutsche Mark	0.4445	0.4467
Swiss Franc	0.5268	0.5314
French Franc	0.1292	0.1304
Japanese Yen	0.6895	0.6929
Dutch Guilder	0.3958	0.3978
Swedish Krona	0.0000	0.0000
Italian Lira	0.0437	0.0439
Belgian Franc	0.0000	0.0000

For 100

Other Currencies Date: 17/8/1994

Current	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8300	1.8550
Lebanese Lira	0.040465	0.041980
Saudi Riyal	0.1852	0.1865
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3101	2.3460
Qatari Riyal	0.1898	0.1921
Egyptian Pound	0.2070	0.2300
Omani Riyal	1.7880	1.8100
UAE Dirham	0.1889	0.1905
Greek Drachma	0.2675	0.3125
Cypriot Pound	1.3975	1.5000

For 100

Hong Kong trade with M.E. surges

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Hong Kong's trade with the Middle East grew by nearly 13 per cent in the first half of 1993 with the balance in its favour despite a surge in imports, an official report said Tuesday.

Two-way trade with the region stood at \$1.63 billion compared with \$1.44 billion in the first half of 1992, according to the report by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council office in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Exports increased by seven per cent to around \$881 million from \$823.3 million while imports soared by 21 per cent to nearly \$748 million from \$618.1 million dollars, the report said.

This created a surplus in favour of Hong Kong of \$133 million in the first half of 1993

1994 compared with \$205.2 million in the same period of 1993.

During the whole of 1993, trade stood at \$3.49 billion, an increase of more than 10 per cent from the previous year.

Hong Kong said this year it was launching an export blitz in the Middle East to take advantage of peace in the region.

Its exports include mainly watches and clocks, clothes, textiles, footstuffs and electrical appliances. Its imports from the region comprise crude oil, clothes, footstuffs and re-exported cars.

Hong Kong's exports to the UAE surged by 18 per cent to \$367 million in the first half of 1994 from around \$328 million in the first half of 1993.

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New Israeli tax sends shock waves through market

told Reuters.

Mr. Meir said some "jitteriness" was to be expected.

A poll for the newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth showed some 500 Israelis divided on the wisdom of the government's plans and on the trustworthiness of Mr. Rabin, who had so completely resisted a capital gains tax in the past.

Israelis were looking to Israeli shares in New York for clues to what might happen on the Tel Aviv exchange.

Economist Dan Tichon, a member of parliament from the opposition Likud Party, called the tax "good for nothing," saying a similar tax initiated in 1964 had to be cancelled after it sent stock prices tumbling.

Tel Aviv investors were already depressed by a lacklustre market this year after record gains the previous two. The benchmark Mishnatim index has fallen by 25 per cent — from 240 points at the start of the year to around 180.

The tax, heartily endorsed by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, evoked a mixed public response. Large numbers of Israelis play the market

measures liberalising foreign currency regulations and reducing taxes, would encourage growth and bolster stock exchange.

Others were not so sure.

"What is a very likely scenario is that we're going to have a roiling bear market in the final quarter where people are going to try to make what profits they can this year when it's still tax-free," Mr. Meir said.

The market is going to be up Sunday, Monday and might do nothing for several weeks and then in the final quarter of the year it will move very nicely, making up a lot of lost ground," he said.

U.S., Japan sign patent pact

and trademarks, Office of the

Commerce, Washington —

was struck in secret talks but only formally announced in Tokyo Tuesday, with a signing ceremony to be held in October.

While barely a blip in the big commercial picture, the patent deal is the only one to emerge from contentious U.S.-Japan trade framework talks that were launched with fanfare last summer.

The aim of the talks is to cut Japan's record trade surplus — \$12.3 billion in July alone — but negotiators have failed to make much headway and the impasse has instead battered the dollar.

Indeed, officials said it was unclear how much the intellectual property agreement would help level the lopsided trade imbalance, although currency traders took heart at some cooling-off in the friction between the nations.

"This is not going to blow everyone's socks off, but it does show there's a new good feeling and workable relationship between Japan and America," said Ruth Ford, a spokeswoman in the Patent

Tuesday's pact would begin to cut the red tape that paved the way to winning a patent and strengthen protection of what are, in essence, dual covering the blueprint products.

Diamond giant De Beers' profits slip

JOHANNESBURG (UPI) — De Beers diamond giant said Tuesday profits slipped 1.4 per cent in the first half of 1994, despite steady sales of rough stones compared with the same period last year.

South Africa's De Beers Consolidated Mines Ltd. and its Swiss-based sister arm, De Beers Centenary A.G., reported a fall in combined net attributable earnings to \$341 million from \$353 million in the first half of 1993.

This equalled 90 U.S. cents per De Beers/Centenary linked investment unit, versus 93 cents in the corresponding previous year period.

Following a group restructuring in 1993 that involved the sale of its own securities in both De Beers and Centenary, which houses the group's foreign interests. But these trade as twin units comprising one De Beers share and one Centenary depositary receipt.

The group made an immediate comment on the softer first half results, except to note that its net charge rose to \$10 million from \$6 million.

It said a further statement elaborating on the results would be made as soon as possible.

Janet Evans wins 40th U.S. title

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana (R) — Janet Evans, the greatest woman distance freestyle swimmer in the history of the sport, won her 40th U.S. national title Tuesday at the U.S. Swimming Championships.

Evans, 22, led from start to finish to win the 400-metre freestyle in 4:08.78. The world record-holder in the event for the past six years, Evans tied 200-metre butterfly world record holder Melvin Stewart for most national titles with 40. It was also her 11th national title in the 400 freestyle.

Evans has won 24 of 25 major national and international titles in this event since the 1986 Goodwill Games.

The seven-day U.S. nationals are the selection meet for the world championships in Rome and part of the selection process for the March 21-26 Pan American Games in Mar del Plata, Argentina.

The duel expected between

Evans and 16-year-old schoolgirl Cristina Teuscher, winner of Monday night's 200-metre freestyle event, never materialized. Teuscher finished a distant second in 4:11.20.

"I heard so much about this race I was going to have and I got to the 200 and no one was there," Evans said. "I just swam to get through the race. I think the swimmers are lying in wait for the world championships. In three weeks I swim against the world."

Said Teuscher: "I was just so nervous trying to live up to other people's expectations instead of my own. I was really nervous swimming against Janet."

Evans, a four-time Olympic gold medalist, said she will determine whether she remains in the sport through the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta after she competes in the world championships.

"It would be great to win a fifth Olympic gold medal and

be a little part of history," Evans said.

A fifth Olympic gold medal would be Evans with speedster Bonnie Blair for the most in U.S. women's Olympic history."

"I've accomplished everything I can in this sport," Evans said. "I think right now everything I do is icing on the cake. I'm trying to take things with a lighter attitude. I just want to have fun with it now. That's what's keeping me in it."

Other winners Tuesday night were: Lea Loveless in the 100-metre backstroke in 1:01.73 Brad Bridgewater in the 200-metre backstroke in 1:59.21 and Gary Hall in the 100-metre freestyle in 49.31.

A maximum of 26 men and 26 women will be selected for the U.S. world championships team — first through fourth-place finishers in the 100 and 200-metre freestyles and all event winners. Top two in all other individual events also qualify.

Environmentalists happy but some Monza trees might still fall

ROME (AP) — Environmental groups claimed victory Tuesday, but some trees might still fall in Monza's park to make the running of the rescued Italian Grand Prix safer.

To the relief of the Italian government and racing fans, the Paris-based International Automobile Federation (FIA) Monday announced that it was scrapping its decision to cancel the Formula One race and that the grand prix would be run Sept. 11 as originally scheduled at the track on Monza.

The cancellation had followed protests over a plan, in the name of track safety, to fell majestic oaks, chestnuts, fir and other trees, some centuries old — first 500, then about 120 were to be chopped down — in what is one of Europe's largest urban green spaces. After the protests, local authorities vetoed a government-backed plan to widen a curve by clearing a

swath of trees shading it.

"We have not seen the new plan yet. They say only 10 trees will be sacrificed, among which only one is centuries-old. If this is true, we could come up with an agreement," said the statement. Approval by environmental groups is not necessary for work to go-ahead.

Some were sceptical, like Palmira Corso, a woman from Milan who had joined the protests in the parks.

"First they said 10 trees, now it seems like it could be 14. If there's no one there (at the track) to watch, who knows how many they will cut down," she said.

FIA approved the plan to remove the grandstand at the second corner and in the space put a gravel run-off area and new crash barriers.

The president of the Italian Automobile Association, Rosario Alessi, was happy with the race's rescue.

"Besides satisfying the safety needs of drivers, mechanics and spectators, the solution adopted guarantees the protection of the environment. The legitimate interests of the organisers and the expectations of Italian and foreign fans," Alessi was quoted as saying by the Italian news agency ANSA.

Ferrari said it "received with great relief the confirmation of the Italian Grand Prix in Monza."

Safety concerns were heightened by crashes in the San Marino Grand Prix this spring that killed Ayrton Senna and Roland Ratzenberger.

JORDAN VALLEY ARABIAN STUD

ANNOUNCES THE OPENING OF ENDURANCE AND LONG DISTANCE RIDING ALONG THE HILLS AND PLATEAU OF THE JORDAN VALLEY. KABARDINA HORSES FROM RUSSIA, PURE ARABIAN, THOROUGHBRED, PONIES FOR CHILDREN ARE AVAILABLE. OTHER PROGRAMMES ARE AVAILABLE SUCH AS CAMPING AND RIDING FROM THE VALLEY UP THE HILLS TO MOUNT NEBO NEAR MADABA OVERLOOKING THE DEAD SEA. EQUIPMENT AND TACK ARE AVAILABLE AT THE STUD. PROGRAMMES SUCH AS ENDURANCE RIDING UP THE HILLS AND MOUNTAINS AND LONG DISTANCE COURSES WILL BEGIN SEPTEMBER 15-1994.

INTERESTED RIDERS AND GROUPS, PLEASE CONTACT: MR. NASSER MIRZA TEL: 829882-3

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Mansell is again in focus of Formula One rumours

LONDON (AP) — Depending on whom you believe, British driver Nigel Mansell is either about to sign one of the richest contracts in sports history... or be put out to pasture.

Several British newspapers Tuesday reported that Mansell, the former Formula One and Indy-car champion, has agreed to a three-year, £30-million (\$45 million) deal to drive for the Williams-Renault team starting in 1995.

Other papers, however, reported that team chairman Frank Williams has sourced on the idea of having Mansell return, and that Mansell's current Indy-car team, Newman-Haas, is already planning on replacing him in its driver lineup for next year.

That would leave retirement as a likely scenario for the 41-year-old driver, the reports said.

The people most likely in the know, at least on this side of the Atlantic, weren't shedding any light on the latest rumours.

"It's complete and pure speculation," Williams spokeswoman Barbara Pryzdatek said. "We don't know where the stories have popped up from."

Pryzdatek denied that any contract had been signed for Mansell to return next year, although she reaffirmed previous comments made by Williams that "there is a possibility" Mansell will drive the final three Formula One races of the current season.

Once again, according to Pryzdatek, nothing has been finalised.

But such talk was not ab-



Nigel Mansell

out to stop the British tabloids from jumping on the Mansell bandwagon.

"Mansell returns," was the headline in the Daily Mail, which, like some other papers, worked its story around a quote from Newman-Haas team member Bert Thomas.

"We believe a deal has been done between Carl Haas and Formula One and it will be left to him to make the announcement shortly," Thomas was quoted as saying. "We're close to finalising a deal with Carl for next year which would allow us to announce the driver lineup for 1995."

Other papers, including the tabloid Today and the more sober Guardian, painted a less-than-rosy picture for Mansell's return.

"I believe Frank is starting to go cold on the idea of

having Nigel back permanently," according to a source "close to the Williams team" in Today.

Such rampant speculation surrounding Mansell has become a familiar fixture of the current Formula One season since the death of Williams driver Ayrton Senna at the San Marino Grand Prix May 1.

After two months of rumours and amid much hype, Mansell eventually signed a one-race deal, worth a reported \$1 million, to drive for Williams at the French Grand Prix July 3, a race that did not qualify, but failed to finish the race.

Mansell drove for the Williams team from 1985-88 and again from 1991-92, winning the world title in the final season before moving to Indy cars.

Vietnam, hopes to see more international events

HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam (R) — Vietnam, distracted and isolated by war for decades, is starting to see more international sports events now that its economy is growing and opening to the outside world.

It is a development that most of the 72 million Vietnamese welcome.

"Sports has really touched the hearts of the Vietnamese people and they want to see high class, high performance athletes in action," said Ian Billingham, whose Hong Kong-based International Management Group helped find sponsors for the recent world cup badminton tournament staged here.

The Vietnamese are keen on sport. People hit shuttlecocks in the streets and small boys play football. Vietnamese in their mil-

lions followed the World Cup soccer finals live on television for the first time this year.

But playing facilities and cash for equipment are limited in what remains one of the world's poorest countries.

Following a table-tennis world cup tournament in December 1992, the badminton event was only the second in which fans could see a sport's top players in action in Vietnam.

Both Vietnamese players in the badminton tournament, a man and a woman, were beaten in the first round. For spectator Hoang Loc, 60, it was an eye-opener which made him realise how far the Vietnamese are behind the top world players.

Loc said: "You don't need to be physically strong or have a lot of equipment to play this sport. I can't under-

stand why the gap is so big."

Pham van Kiet, vice-chairman of the Vietnam Olympic Committee, predicted that in seven to 10 years, with international help, Vietnam would catch up with its Asian neighbours.

Vietnamese won the under-16 world chess championship and three Asian chess titles last year. A Vietnamese woman won the world championship in wushu, an Asian martial art. Neither sport has a high profile.

Promoters see lack of stadiums and sponsorships as big difficulties but predict a good future for international events.

Bruce Aitken, says it needs more venues such as an indoor stadium to hold 10,000 people.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Maradona ordered to pay \$40,000

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) — Argentine captain Diego Maradona has been ordered to pay \$40,000 by a court here for firing an air rifle at journalists, injuring five. Maradona opened fire in February on journalists besieging his home in one of the city's exclusive suburbs after he quit his club, Newells Old Boys. The court said the player must pay the sum or face one year's jail. Maradona plans to appear in Zurich Aug. 26 at a hearing of FIFA, football's world governing body, into his drug-taking at the World Cup. The midfielder star was banned from the tournament after testing positive for the stimulant ephedrine.

Brazil soccer team pays fraction of duties

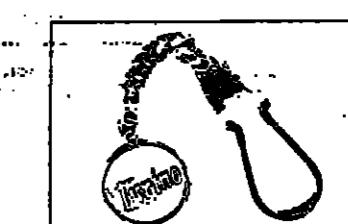
RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — It wasn't the treasure trove Brazil's Internal Revenue Service had hoped for. After searching weeks for 17.4 tonnes of personal items brought by Brazil's World Cup soccer team from the United States, tax men received only a fraction of the \$1 million in customs duties on the excess luggage. Just \$55,000, to be exact. "At least we minimised our losses," said Salvio Costa, the federal tax secretary. Airport officials said the presidential palace told them to allow the baggage to pass through customs un-inspected when the players returned from winning Brazil's fourth World Cup. The incident triggered a scandal that touched the president, the finance minister and the head of the Brazilian Soccer Confederation. The top tax official quit in disgust. A court order in early August allowed tax agents to search the homes of the 93 players, staff and guests of the team delegation aboard the plane. But Costa said the inspectors had little recourse but to accept each individual's own declarations and a list from the Brazilian Soccer Confederation. Lateral defender Branco paid about \$10,000 in duties on items that refurbished his entire kitchen. Head coach Carlos Alberto Parreira wrote out a check for \$4,400 to cover duties on computer and printer. Brazilian law permits citizens to bring up to \$500 worth of items purchased abroad into the country duty free.

S. Africa's Brian Mitchell plans comeback

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Retired South African boxer Brian Mitchell, who held two world titles, plans a comeback as a welterweight in November, his promoter said Tuesday. "Brian has closely followed the fortunes of the current crop of welterweight champions and feels he can beat the lot," promoter Rodney Berman told reporters. Mitchell, who will turn 33 at the end of the month, has a record of 43 victories, three draws and one defeat. He captured the WBA junior lightweight title by knocking out Panama's Alfredo Layne in September 1986 and took IBF version of Tony Lopez on points in 1991. Berman said Mitchell's first fight in November would be a warm-up but the boxer hoped for an eventual match against WBC champion Pernell Whitaker.

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Sports

JORDAN TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, AUGUST 18-19, 1994 11

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68 competitors to take part in Rumman Climb

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The countdown has already begun for the Kingdom's most popular auto sports event — the Rumman Hill Climb — which will take place Friday, Aug. 19, with 68 top-level competitors taking part.

Participants have been anxiously awaiting and gearing up for the 3 kilometre long course as they will again attempt to break the record of 2 minutes 02.42 seconds set in 1988 by His Majesty King Hussein in his Mercedes 190.

The event, organised by the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ) is sponsored by Pepsi and the Forte Grand Hotel.

Jordan's top drivers as well as participants from Lebanon and Egypt make up the 71 strong entries which have been divided into six classes depending on the engine capacity of their respective cars.

Jordan's 1993 Drivers Open champion Amjad Farrah is back in a Toyota Corolla, Bassem Bustami and Ahmad Al Daoud will be driving a Ford Fiesta XRi, while the only lady in the race, Randa Nabulsi, will be driving a Seat Ibiza SXI.

Other participants include Issa Halabi in an Open Manta 400, Hassan Abu Samra in a Ford Sierra Cosworth, Tareq Taban in a VW Golf G-60, Sinan Saudi in a Daihatsu Charade GTI, Ghaidi Bilbeisi in a Toyota Starlet, Omar Halabi in a BMW M5, Faris Bustami in a Honda Civic CRX, Bishara Quz'or in a Nissan 240 RS, Lebanon's Jean Pierre Nasrallah in a Lancia Delta Integrale IIF and Adel Metni in a Mitsubishi Gallant VR4.

Scrutinising of the cars registered to compete was held Tuesday at the RACJ while controlled practice sessions were held Wednesday and Thursday.

The hill climb, which was initiated by His Majesty the King back in 1956, is a favourite among the sports fans. The full day event offers competitors and spectators alike a chance to witness top level competition in one of the most scenic parts of the Kingdom with spectacular views of forest areas near Jerash.

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The hill climb

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hebron mosque will reopen soon — Rabin

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has promised to reopen before Sept. 5 the Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron where more than 30 Arab worshippers were shot dead in February, Israeli television said Tuesday. Mr. Rabin told an ultra-orthodox Jewish deputy that the site would be reopened before the Jewish new year or Rosh Hashana, the television said. Jews and Muslims, who both worshipped at the complex, have called for its reopening for several months but Israeli authorities have categorically refused. The Israeli army has been carrying out work on the site to separate Jewish and Muslim worshippers, as recommended by a government commission which investigated the massacre. The commission's report at the end of June said the Feb. 25 massacre was carried out solely by Israeli settler Baruch Goldstein, who lived in nearby Kifiat Arba. Jews and Muslims pray in separate rooms inside the complex, where Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are buried.

Lebanese guerrillas detonate bombs

MARJAYOUN (AP) — Guerrillas detonated two roadside bombs in Israel's self-designated "security zone" in the south Wednesday. A pro-Israeli militia reported no casualties. The explosions were claimed by Hezbollah whose Shiite Muslim guerrillas have been waging war to evict Israel from the occupied zone. Security sources said the bombs went off at two patrols of Israel's surrogate militia, the South Lebanon Army (SLA), were driving separately from the village of Kfar Houma to the town of Jezzine. The SLA's Voice of the South radio station said there were no casualties in the blasts at 1:30 p.m. (1030 GMT) and five minutes later. On Tuesday, three SLA militiamen were killed and two wounded in a similar attack, the deadliest since U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher last week wound up his fourth peace mission in the region.

No changes to charter before withdrawal — Kaddoumi

NICOSIA (AFP) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) cannot strike out of its charter articles calling for the destruction of Israel as long as it occupies Palestinian territory, a senior PLO official said Wednesday. Faruk Kaddoumi, who acts as the PLO's "foreign minister," told Radio Monte-Carlo: "We can only alter the charter if Israel withdraws from our lands and a comprehensive peace is signed." Mr. Kaddoumi, who is still based at the old PLO headquarters in Tunis, was responding to calls from Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin insisting that the PLO make the changes. "The PLO pledged to remove from its charter the paragraphs calling for the destruction of the State of Israel almost a year ago," Mr. Rabin's spokesman Oded Ezer *Am* said Tuesday. When Israel and the PLO exchanged letters of recognition on Sept. 9, 1993, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat said in his message to Mr. Rabin that the chapters "denying Israel's right to exist were from now on null and void." But no progress has so far been made on modifying the 33-article charter which was drawn up by a PLO congress in 1964 in Jerusalem and revised in 1968. The letters of recognition opened the way towards the signing of the declaration of principles and the May 4 autonomy accord launching Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

U.N. probes human rights in southern Iraq

TEHRAN (AFP) — A U.N. fact-finding team has arrived in Iraq to investigate reports of human rights violations in southern Iraq, an Iraqi opposition group said here Wednesday. The Supreme council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI) said the U.N. team, which arrived in Tehran on Monday, had left early Wednesday for Iraqi refugee camps in the border province of Khuzestan. The team would question witnesses about the human rights situation in Iraq, during visits to the camps of Ban Al Najar and Motahari. SCIRI has repeatedly accused the Iraqi army of attacking villages in Iraq's southern marshlands and committing atrocities against the mainly Shiite Muslim population. Baghdad crushed a Shiite rebellion following Iraq's defeat in the Gulf War in February 1991. There have since been pockets of resistance among the Shites hiding out in the marshes. Camps in Iran's southwestern province of Khuzestan host around 10,000 Iraqi refugees, forced out by army offensives.

Thousands attend Zia memorial

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Thousands of Pakistanis flocked Wednesday to the grave of former ruler, General Mohammad Zia Ul Haq, as the country's main opposition party used the anniversary of his death to denounce Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. Addressing the emotional crowd, opposition leader Nawaz Sharif and Zia's eldest son, Mohammad Ejaz Ul Haq, bitterly attacked Ms. Bhutto and President Farooq Ahmad Leghari. General Zia, who died six years ago, was responsible for removing Ms. Bhutto's father from power and later executing him. Earlier Wednesday, Ejaz Ul Haq led a long motorcade to the tomb of his father from nearby Rawalpindi. In his hard-hitting speech, Mr. Sharif denounced Mr. Leghari and Ms. Bhutto as corrupt, incompetent and dishonest and said if the present government continued in power, it would bring disaster to Pakistan.

Sri Lanka opposition wins election

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka's opposition People's Alliance won Tuesday's general election with 105 seats in the 225-seat parliament against the ruling United National Party's 94, according to official election results. The People's Alliance ally the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress won seven seats, while an independent Tamil group standing in the north and allied to the ruling party got nine. Two other Tamil parties, the Tamil United Liberation Front and the Democratic People's Liberation Front won five and three seats respectively. An independent group standing in the Central Hills won one seat and a fringe leftist group won one seat in the southern Hambantota district (see inside for earlier story).

Israel appoints envoy to Taiwan

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli foreign ministry has for the first time named a representative to Taiwan, the newspaper Haaretz reported Wednesday. It said the appointment was not made public, following the establishment of diplomatic relations with China in January 1992 on condition that Israel did not set up the same links with Taiwan. The representative, Ilan Maor, will serve as an economic expert at the Israeli interests section in Taipei, which was created in 1992 under Israel's centre for exports. "The duties of Mr. Maor will cover only economic issues," Haaretz quoted an official as saying. But the paper added that he could take up a diplomatic role at a later date.

Senior PLO official to visit Japan

TOKYO (AFP) — A senior Palestinian economics official is to visit Japan later this month for talks with Japan's foreign minister and trade officials, the Foreign Ministry said Wednesday. Ahmad Qouriea, a member of the Palestinian authority and director general of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's Department of Economic Affairs and Planning, is due here between August 21-24, the ministry said. He is scheduled to hold talks with Japan's Foreign Minister Yohei Kono and exchange views with senior officials from the international trade and industry ministry.

Israel to free 249, agrees on crossings

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt (Agencies) — Israel is to release 249 Palestinian prisoners and has agreed on how to share control of border crossings and run safe passages between the self-rule areas, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres announced here Wednesday.

"We have agreed on the rules and regulations of safe passages between Gaza and Jericho," he said, adding that none of them would be members of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), which is violently opposed to the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy deal.

Negotiations for the release of more prisoners would continue next week, he said.

Mr. Peres said the latest points were being communicated over the telephone to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat by the Palestinian negotiators in Egypt's Mediterranean city of Alexandria.

Under an agreement signed in May, Palestinians have taken over from Israel in the self-rule areas of

officers could be deployed, he replied: "They can do it tomorrow."

"We have also agreed on the release of 249 prisoners," he said, adding that none of them would be members of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), which is violently opposed to the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy deal.

Negotiations for the release of more prisoners would continue next week, he said.

Mr. Peres said the latest points were being communicated over the telephone to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat by the Palestinian negotiators in Egypt's Mediterranean city of Alexandria.

Under an agreement signed in May, Palestinians have taken over from Israel in the self-rule areas of

Gaza and Jericho. The Alexandria talks are expected to focus on issues left unresolved from that agreement and the transfer of power to Palestinians in five spheres of life in the rest of the West Bank.

Chief PLO negotiator Nabil Shaath demanded on Tuesday that the Alexandria talks be used to set a clear date for the transfer, known as early empowerment, saying the PLO "will not accept any further delay."

Mr. Peres said Israel expected Palestinian authorities in Gaza and Jericho "to take all the necessary measures to provide full security to people."

But he denied the Palestinian authorities were being squeezed on one side by militants who reject the peace accord and Israeli calls for greater security on the other.

"We are not pressing ... we do not intend to press and we came here with a clear aim to negotiate," Mr. Peres said.

He said in return for assurances of tighter Palestinian security control Israel "has to contribute whatever we can to improve the economic story ... to improve the early empowerment in the other parts of the West Bank."

The five powers, outlined in an 11-month-old peace deal, are education, health, social affairs, taxation and tourism. Israel and the PLO said they were nearing agreement on expanding self-rule to the West Bank.

Both sides say the main obstacle is the handing over of responsibility for direct taxation of the West Bank's nearly one million Palestinians. The Palestinian authority needs to raise funds

for setting a mechanism for collecting taxes and hiring employees.

The Gaza Strip could erupt into violence if the economic situation does not improve, a member of the Palestinian authority warned Wednesday.

"If people do not have bread the inhabitants of Gaza could kill each other," Jamil Harara, head of the authority's investment department, told the Jerusalem-based Palestinian daily Al Quds.

"This could lead to chaos, riots and tension," he said.

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) has estimated the unemployment rate in Gaza at 41 per cent.

So far the Palestinians have received only a small portion of the \$720 million in aid pledged by international donors

COLUMN

Scientists find breast cancer 'marker'

SYDNEY (R) — Australian scientists say they have found a breast cancer "marker" gene that may allow them to predict survival more accurately and improve drug therapies. The gene Cyclin D1 causes breast cancer cells to multiply more rapidly if it is over-abundant in breast tissue, they say. "This is a gene that belongs to a family of genes that are important in the control of growth in cells as primitive as yeast right through to humans," Rob Sutherland, professor of biology at Sydney's Garvan Institute of Medical Research, said in a radio interview Wednesday. "What that means is that it's a very important gene, or it wouldn't have been conserved over that millennia of evolution," Prof. Sutherland said. "consequently if something goes wrong with such a critical gene, it's likely to be involved in the loss of normal growth control, which is really the molecular characteristics of cancer," he said. High rates of Cyclin D1 in breast cancer patients may make it possible to determine the speed of development of the cancer and give doctors a better idea of how patients would respond to drug treatment, the scientists say.

Chinese army hits low note

BEIJING (R) — The army in one southern Chinese military region has been told to prune its growing business empire by closing karaoke bars, sauna parlours and other ventures it owns.

It said "no excuse will be valid after this warning."

Hinting that reporters might become regular targets for violence, the group added, "Either you repent or you will have only yourselves to blame."

The group is the armed wing of the Banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS). It complained that the media in Algeria depict Muslim fundamentalists in Algeria as "outlaws."

Fifteen journalists have been killed since May 1993 in Algeria in attacks blamed on extremist groups (see page 2).

One of 25 suspected Algerian militants interned at a disused French army camp has gone on hunger strike to protest his innocence, the group's spokesman said on Wednesday.

Djaffar Al Houari, president of the Algerian Fraternity in France (FAF), told Reuters by telephone from the camp in Folembray northeast of Paris that Mr. Magri, 28, started his hunger strike four days ago.

Mr. Magri, a shopkeeper, has protested he was innocent ever since he was interned on Aug. 10. The Algerians interned are believed by police to be members or sympathizers of Algeria's FIS.

"This is moral and psychological torture, it's unbearable. I have never gone into politics. I'm a non-believer. I have nothing to do with the FIS and I don't know why I'm here," he said.

His fellow internees said Mr. Magri was lying on his bed, chain-smoking and refusing to speak or attend prayers.

BEIJING (AFP) — China's population is aging at an alarming rate, with 250 million people expected to be over 65 years old by 2025. Xinhua quoted a new report as indicating the number of old people in China — where the overall population is now nearly 1.2 billion — is expanding faster than in any other country in the world and will by 2025 account for 24 per cent of the global total, the report by the Beijing Centre of Gerontology was cited as saying.

The report said the Chinese population over 65 would increase from 10 per cent to 20 per cent in just 21 years, while a similar process took 85 years in Sweden and 32 years in Japan. It added that China was the only one of the world's 57 countries classified as having an aged population that did not have a per capita gross national product of at least \$1,000. The report is aimed at providing data of policy-making by the government which has been seeking ways to develop the country's fledgling social security system amid increasingly concern about the so-called "white wave" phenomenon.

Body of climber missing since 1977 found

CHAMONIX, France (AFP) — The body of an Austrian climber who disappeared in 1977 has been found in a crevasse in the Mont Blanc region, rescue services said Tuesday. Officials said the climber was that of one of two climbers thought to have fallen in the crevasse while traversing a glacier. The body of the other climber was found in the region last summer. The identity of the climber was not yet known.

"He had strong relations with Abu Nidal and Abu Jihad so I believe he provided help for some of their cadres to enter Sudan," Mr. Seisi added.

Iran-Argentina tension mounts

TEHRAN (Agencies) — A diplomatic crisis escalated Wednesday after Argentine President Carlos Menem renewed allegations of Iranian involvement in the bombing of a Jewish charity in Buenos Aires.

The Argentine ambassador in Iran, Mario Quadri del Castillo, left for home following his second recall since July 18 deadly blast.

The diplomat, who was first recalled on July 27, has again been called home for consultations, only days after he returned to Iran.

After weeks of escalating tension over the bombing allegations and Iranian denials, Tehran and Buenos Aires recalled their top envoys on Tuesday for "political consultations."

The top Iranian envoy in Argentina, Hadi Soleiman-Pur, was expected to arrive here late Wednesday.

Foreign diplomats in Tehran said the moves were a sign of deteriorating relations and that the two countries might have decided to scale down diplomatic ties.

"Now everything is possible. This is a prelude to a serious crisis," a Western diplomat said. "The recallings

are a sign that a problem of dialogue is surfacing" between the two countries.

Mr. Menem renewed the charges against Iran on Tuesday and said the authorities in Argentina had found "new proof" linking Iranians to the attack but would avoid the outcome of their investigation.

Judge Juan Jose Galeano named several Iranian officials in his report into the attack on the Argentine Jewish Mutual Association, which killed at least 95 people, left 10 missing and injured 250.

He issued international warrants for the arrest of four officials: three former diplomats and a member of parliament.

Three diplomats serving in Buenos Aires are also under investigation.

Iran has strongly denied any involvement in the attack denouncing the allegations as a "conspiracy." It has maintained the four wanted Iranians were not even in Argentina at the time the attack took place.

A leading Iranian deputy, Saeed Rajai-Khorasani, charged Wednesday the allegations were made under pressure from Israel and the

United States and were aimed at forcing Iran to join the Middle East peace process.

"This propaganda is completely unfounded and the sole aim is to pressure Iran politically," he told Abrar newspaper.

Iran is fiercely opposed to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, branding the Middle East peace process sponsored by the United States and Russia as capitulation.

Mr. Rajai-Khorasani, a member of the Iranian parliament's foreign affairs subcommittee, challenged Argentina to produce evidence linking Iran to the attack and for the main witness, Manochehr Motamer, to be interviewed.

Described by Iran as a con man and a U.S. agent, Mr. Motamer is an Iranian defector whose testimony Mr. Galeano used in his report implicating the Iranians in the attack.

An Iranian justice official in the central city of Esfahan, where Mr. Motamer supposedly lived before leaving Iran, said Tuesday that the defector was being sought at home on charges of bribery, embezzlement and

forgery.

Mr. Motamer was an "unemployed charlatan" who often posed as a government employee, he said, adding that numerous suits had been filed against him.

"The appropriate authorities should take legal action for his extradition," it quoted the official identified only as Dadavikli, in charge of Mr. Motamer's case in Isfahan.

Mr. Dadavikli said in one case before the 26th branch of the Tehran penal court type one, Mr. Motamer was freed on bail of 100 million rials (\$7,000) in July 1992.

He branded Mr. Motamer an impostor who introduced himself as a government security agent or employee of various ministries.

Iran's Chief Justice Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi urged Argentine authorities to pay "greater attention to justice and not be influenced by political and economic powers."

(Continued on page 3)

Computer wargame

South Korea and the United States will launch an annual command post exercise next week, featuring a sophisticated computer-simulated war game, military authorities announced.

The Republic of Korea government and (U.S.-South Korea) Combined Forces Command (CFC) will conduct their annual command post exercise, Ulchi Focus Lens (UFL), Aug. 22 to Sept. 4, a CFC statement said.

A spokesman for the U.S. forces stationed here said the exercise would not involve sending any troops into the field and was aimed at testing command post doctrine.

The United States and North Korea are to resume talks next month to iron out details of the accord.

Both sides will be involved in the annual command post exercise.

At a time when the Sudanese government was isolated by the whole world community, it managed to get access to credit from French banks to purchase the aircraft, Mr. Seisi said.

"This was the deal over Carlos," he said.

Both France and Sudan have denied any deal was struck between the two countries for the handing over of Carlos.

But his lawyers say he was betrayed by France by Sudan's government in exchange for cash and possibly other benefits.

Mr. Seisi said Carlos had been helped by authorities in Khartoum.

"We believe Carlos has been training Sudanese security and defence forces. He has also been liaising between the government and various other organisations in the region," he said.

"He had strong relations with Abu Nidal and Abu Jihad so I believe he provided help for